

RESERVES BILL 2024

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS M.R. MARSHALL (Rockingham) [4.35 pm]: Before we were interrupted for question time, I was talking about the wonderful Point Peron, or Cape Peron, region in my electorate of Rockingham. I was talking through the various activities and things to do and see there. For me, it is a really important and historic local attraction, with my mum having grown up fishing there with her brothers and sisters. My childhood was spent walking the trails along the shore looking for crabs in the rocks and snorkelling in the shallows. Like many people in Rockingham, Point Peron is a really beloved local asset. It is still popular for visitors from our region and beyond, with the majority of visitors coming down to enjoy the reserve for fishing, walking and nature appreciation, including dolphin and seal spotting, swimming, snorkelling, paddling, recreational camps, and fitness—which I can attest to having previously coordinated a Point Peron run club that went up and down the stairs to the old World War II lookout.

Following the class A reserve announcement last year, Cape Peron Reserve will be managed and developed to provide high quality recreation facilities within the urban bushland while also respecting its natural environment and heritage values. Giving Point Peron this status highlights its importance from an environmental conservation perspective, but also serves as an opportunity for tourism. Other class A reserves in Western Australia include Kings Park and Rottne Island. I know the Minister for Environment, Minister Whitby, refers to Cape Peron as “Kings Park of the South” or “Kings Park by the Sea”. We are really committed to making sure that it is treated as such. Our local community highly values Point Peron and the granting of the highest level of protection to the area was a big win for Rockingham, especially following the scrapping of previous plans to build a marina in Mangles Bay.

I thank the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment for listening to my community and acting in our best interests. Having granted the reserve the class A status, we are now working on the master plan—members can tell I wrote these notes last week! We actually released master plan last Friday, which was been produced by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and involved extensive stakeholder consultation, including a session that I hosted in my office with the various groups involved in the reserve, as well as other important tourism stakeholders in Rockingham. Although the master plan is aspirational, it sets out the future management objectives of the reserve by providing clear direction for balancing the demands for use and development in the reserve with the cultural and environmental sensitivities of the region. The implementation of the master plan will enhance visitors’ experience to Point Peron in a way that is culturally and environmentally appropriate.

The traditional owners of Cape Peron Reserve are the Bindjareb people and there are several registered Aboriginal heritage sites within Cape Peron. An objective of the master plan is for DBCA to continue working with the traditional owners to foster opportunities to connect to country, retain cultural heritage sites within the reserve and develop further Aboriginal tourism opportunities, such as yarning, tours and art.

I also take this opportunity to shout out to our local elder from Rockingham, Steve Jacobs, who coordinates In Culture Tours. He is a Whadjuk man who recently launched a new tour along the Rockingham foreshore called the Moordiboordip Cultural Walking Tour. He generously shares his culture through storytelling, including with a tour of Boya Karla in Cape Peron that shares the Dreamtime stories of the Derbarl Nara. He recently partnered with Monique from Hidden deTours to create a walking tour along the foreshore that combines both First Nations and European settlement stories as an act of truth-telling and reconciliation. I highly recommend that for anyone who wants to come down to the Rockingham region.

Back to Boya Karla. By granting class A reserve status, we have committed to continue protecting and rehabilitating the Bush Forever sites within the reserve, with any future impact to be managed in accordance with the *State planning policy 2.8: Bushland policy for the Perth metropolitan region*. The master plan sets out many opportunities to boost the amenity of Point Peron that will encourage sustainable tourism in Rockingham. This will include improved lighting and surveillance at the western cape car park to deter antisocial behaviour, and additional car parking, picnic facilities and a small vendor stall and, most importantly, toilets. Three different sites that were previously cleared for development are to be made available for the provision of short-stay accommodation, dual-use pathways will be installed to connect the reserve with both the Rockingham foreshore and Shoalwater Bay, and the former Swan Brewery site will be rehabilitated, and a visitor node and wayfinding signs will be provided throughout the reserve.

Again, the master plan is aspirational and requires commensurate funding for staffing and operational costs. However, I am really proud to have secured \$1 million in the 2024–25 state budget to deliver some of these amenity upgrades with a priority focus on toilets. They are long called for, and the upgrades to Cape Peron will enhance the visitor experience for people coming to our region, but also for locals who travel there and make use of what we have on our beautiful shoreline.

In conclusion, I am really proud of our government's commitment to growing our conservation estate and protecting our natural environment. Whether it is metropolitan reserves like Cape Peron or natural parks and bushlands across our vast regions, our government is acting to preserve our state's biodiversity and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy what our natural environment has to offer.

I commend the bill to the house.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.41 pm]: I rise today to also make a contribution on the very important Reserves Bill 2024, and I thank the parliamentary secretary for bringing it to the house. From the outset, I want to say that the member for Rockingham has brought back some nostalgic memories for me, and I think I will take a trip to Point Peron again, which I have not done for some time. I look forward to some of the new opportunities that she spoke about.

I commence my contribution on this particular bill by providing a little bit of a snapshot of the history around the Labor government's increased protection of south west native forests. I grew up in Yarloop. I am not a sea change person; I am absolutely a tree change person. I love forests. I love the smell of the forests. I was a geography teacher, and we did dry sclerophyll forests as our study area because I was so interested in the biodiversity of the south west native forests.

The Gallop Labor government had in 2001 a policy to protect our old-growth forest, and the historical move was made in 2021 by the McGowan Labor government to end large-scale commercial logging under the *Forest management plan 2024–2033*. It is really important to highlight and place on the record that this government is absolutely committed to preserving and conserving our environment. This decision will protect nearly two million hectares of native karri, jarrah and wandoo forest for future generations. I briefly pause here to speak about the amazing jarrah trees that sit within my electorate of Collie–Preston. I am going to briefly stray into the territory of Warren–Blackwood as well today. We have an amazing specimen of jarrah in the Ferguson Valley region, which is at the back of the Wellington National Park. It is colloquially known as “King Jarrah.” This particular specimen in this area is somewhere between 300 and 500 years old. I took the Minister for Environment down to have a look at that during a recent visit to Collie–Preston, and he was equally as impressed as I was at the majesty of how old those trees are and the ability to conserve those specimens for future generations to enjoy and wonder at the beauty of native species.

King Jarrah is also present in Manjimup; I think it must have been a popular naming convention at some point. There is a really incredible story around King Jarrah in Manjimup. The species in the Collie–Preston region—I was going to say my one—is 36 metres in height. The Manjimup one is 45 metres tall and is estimated to be 500 years old. It is a very impressive jarrah tree. The Parks and Wildlife Service website has an anecdote about this tree; I quote —

He's lucky to still be here. In the early 1900's, two sleeper cutters had plans to fall this giant. Fortunately for King Jarrah, this dastardly plan reached the ears of Fred Brockman of the Lands and Surveys Department just in time. He raced out to the tree and blazed a broad arrow on it which signified that it was the property of the crown and couldn't be cut down. When the sleeper cutters arrived at the tree early the next morning, they realised that their plan had been foiled.

King Jarrah is listed on the Significant Tree Register.

I give a shout-out to Fred Brockman. He is probably one of the ultimate conservationists of his time. Because of his work, the King Jarrah in Manjimup has been preserved and there are a number of other amazing specimens around the south west forests.

Under the Cook Labor government's approved forest management plan, the south west native forest will be managed for its health and resilience. I think that is really important to highlight this year in particular because my electorate office received a number of complaints over the previous summer 2023–24 about the health of the forests across Collie–Preston. People were contacting me concerned that a number of trees were dying and that the tree canopies were suffering and showing signs of being susceptible to drought. In a drying climate, the health and resilience of the forest is even more important.

I will touch very briefly on the logging activities that occur in and around my electorate. Whenever a section of native forest is logged under current plans, it triggers a spate of people ringing my office to complain about the fact that we are losing precious jarrah forest in the region that we just cannot afford to lose. I obviously want to say thank you to the people who raised that very important issue with me. It speaks again to the nature of this bill more broadly.

I am obviously going to particularly talk about the expanded Wellington National Park in Collie–Preston. Collie–Preston has been a beneficiary of this bill in relation to protecting our natural environment. The expanded Wellington National Park now covers 25 000 hectares, protecting high-quality jarrah and marri forest and important habitat for a range of threatened and priority species. The park attracts over 273 000 visitors annually, and its expansion will provide additional opportunities for recreation including mountain biking, bushwalking, camping, cultural education and adventure activities. The investments in the park provide the opportunity for Collie and

surrounds because it backs onto Ferguson Valley in the Shire of Dardanup. The Wellington National Park expansion will also provide exceptional opportunities for that community to tap into.

Collie was recently recognised as a trail town offering quality trails, outdoor experiences, facilities and services, such as accommodation, hospitality, visitor information and more. It has transformed my community. I want to speak very briefly on each of those sections that I mentioned just then. I would like to obviously talk a little bit about the expansion of the Wellington National Park and some of the other initiatives that link back to the just transition policy that the Cook Labor government is delivering for the community of Collie.

Part of the initial diversification of Collie's economy was around looking at tourism opportunities. As a town, Collie is surrounded by national park to the north, east and south. I am not biased, but it is the most beautiful part of the state. We can have an argument about that later, but it is my turn to speak and I will not be taking interjections on that point! I am incredibly lucky to call this part of the world my home. Wellington National Park, as I said, has been expanded. That has delivered amazing opportunities. I mentioned the mountain bike trails network, and I will go into more detail. Back in November 2021, not long after I was elected to this place, I was with former Premier Mark McGowan and my friend Hon Mick Murray for the opening of the Kaniyang Wiilman suspension bridge over the Collie River. This is so much fun. I am very easily entertained—or maybe not. A number of the most amazing days I have spent with my family have been walking that bridge and we are in fits of laughter because if one person jumps, the person at the other end of the bridge span will just about fall off the side. It is so much fun. It provides a fun and unique way of linking the bike trail and the walk trail networks from one side of the Collie River to the other.

Another important point is that a tiger can be seen from the Kaniyang Wiilman suspension bridge. That will remain a secret. Members will have to go to the Kaniyang Wiilman bridge to see the tiger. It is an incredible place to spend a wonderful afternoon with family. The tourism sector has really expanded with the start of the bike trail and the art trail networks back into the Collie town site. I will also talk about the mega mural on the dam wall. I want to say a very big thank you to the members of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the incredible work they have been doing with their team to create the Wambenger trails initiative. They should be so proud of what they have been able to develop. I know that they are and I spoke to them at the most recent opening of some of the trails. What they have created along with the community and the Shire of Collie, funded by the state government, is something we should all be very proud of.

Going back to the Kaniyang Wiilman bridge, I said it provided a link between the north and south part of the Collie River. That link forms part of the 87-kilometre, five-day, four-night Wiilman Bilya walk trail. People can do an overnight camping experience, or over multiple nights, with family and friends. It is an incredible experience and I highly recommend it, even to the member for Rockingham. If I go to visit Point Peron, she might need to return the favour and come and have a look in Collie. That takes me to the walkway across Wellington Dam. The mega mural, *Reflections*, was painted by Guido van Helten. I love the image so much that it is on the birthday cards I send to people across my electorate. *Reflections* is just the most beautiful design. I am very glad that it won the design competition. At one stage, somebody told me—I think it was former Premier Mark McGowan—they had considered a reclining nude of Hon Mick Murray on the wall of Wellington Dam. For prosperity, we can all say thank you that it was not the reclining nude of Hon Mick Murray, as much of a tourist attraction as that may have been because what we have delivered there is incredible.

Mr T.J. Healy: That would be worse than a nuclear power plant.

Ms J.L. HANNS: I am coming to the nuclear power plant, member for Southern River; do not worry about that.

The walkway across the top of the Wellington Dam wall again provides a link to much of the trail network. I want to mention the fact that, yes, Collie has become a trails town but they are world-class trails and they are attracting international and interstate visitors to Western Australia. That just adds to not only Collie's diversification of the economy but also more broadly to the state's economy around tourism. The walkway is open to the public, obviously, and gates allow the walkway to be closed overnight and then opened in the daytime to provide safe access for walkers and cyclists. I now turn to the fact that Collie is home to Western Australia's largest mountain bike trail network. In October this year, the Premier and the Minister for Environment were down in Wellington National Park to make the announcement and cut the ribbon on the Wambenger trails. As I said, the trails have been funded through a \$10 million initiative from the Cook Labor government to support Collie's diversification of the economy and particularly to support the tourism industry. Riders now have almost 100 kilometres of national park trails to explore in Collie's Wambenger trails network, which links Wellington Dam, Honeymoon Pool, Mt Lennard and the spectacular Collie River valley. The newly expanded trails cater for experienced and competition riders, complementing the previously completed beginner trails near Wellington Dam. The beginner trails are more my style, let me tell members. I would not be contemplating some of those more complicated trails, having seen the calibre of the riders at the recent Australian and Oceania championships. I will leave that to the experts.

Another exciting part of this is that the Wambenger trails are helping to transform Collie into a world-class trail destination. A new bike hire outlet has opened up in Wellington National Park to support those trails with a range of tour options also available to introduce new riders to the fun of mountain biking. That bike hire is run by Adventure Connections. Kym has done a fabulous job of setting up that business as a sub-outlet of her business. I think I said previously in the chamber during a contribution to another bill that I was particularly upset with Kym because she had hosted Daniel Ricciardo in Collie on the mountain bike trails and the local member had no knowledge of this prior to the event. I was very disappointed. I know Kym quite well and I said to her we needed to have words about that because the heads-up and an opportunity to meet one of my favourite all-time motorsports heroes has been and gone. However, even Daniel Ricciardo rates the trails in Collie incredibly highly.

A really important part of this project is obviously around diversifying Collie's economy. As I said, some of the initial planning was done around moving to a just transition for Collie, creating new opportunities and capitalising on the amazing natural wonders and natural beauty of Collie and its surrounding areas. We can look at what this has done for the community. I met somebody yesterday who had been to Collie and enjoyed the trails and the Collie motorplex. He was incredibly impressed with the sorts of opportunities there are for people to come and recreate in Collie. He was quite staggered at the difference because he had not visited Collie for about six years and had returned recently. He said the town was buzzing and it absolutely is, on any given day; it does not even need to be a weekend anymore. There are rows and rows of cars on the main street, with mountain bikes or kayaks on the back and loads of caravans all hitched-up and restocking at local businesses. That is what this project was trying to achieve and it has delivered in spades for the community. Locals are so proud that we get to showcase our amazing town to visitors. I will talk a little bit more about that in a minute.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.L. HANNS: I also want to highlight a couple of things that people might not know about the environmentally friendly options around exploring Wellington National Park. In the initial stages of the just transition and diversifying the economy, back when Hon Mick Murray was the member for Collie–Preston, he started a range of programs to diversify and attract new industries to Collie. One of them is very little known, but I think it might be of interest to members in this chamber today. It is called a Living Legacy Forest. The Living Legacy Forest exists within the boundary of Wellington National Park. There are two Living Legacy Forest sites in Australia. One is in, I think, the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and the other one is in Collie. The Living Legacy Forest allows people to purchase a memorial tree as a personal and fitting tribute for family, friends and future generations on the passing of a loved one.

Obviously, scattering the ashes is a common practice after a cremation. I am not sure whether members are aware that scattering ashes can be toxic to the environment depending on where they are dispersed. A word of warning: in their untreated form, ashes have extremely high levels of salt and phosphorus and are harmful to ecosystems, and to be scattered alongside living plants, ashes need to be treated. The Living Legacy formula, which is the magic formula used to treat ashes, transforms them into nutrients to help trees grow. People can actually look after the environment even after they have passed away. After detoxifying the harmful nature of ashes, they can be used to restore soil biology. Obviously, if a tree is planted in conjunction with a person's ashes, it is a living legacy and a memorial for their family and it gives people a fabulous reason to return to Wellington National Park in future times with other generations of their family. The Living Legacy formula is proven to work on a wide range of soil types. This is straight from the website. Living Legacy offers a broad range of Australian native, exotic and European trees. My favourite is the flowering plum. This little-known project has been part of diversifying Collie's local economy and demonstrates an environmentally friendly use of Wellington National Park for sustainability across a range of different things. I am really proud to highlight the Living Legacy Forest today because not many people know about it.

I am going to stray into the territory of Labor governments being environmentally conscious in their decision-making. They do two things. They balance the availability of jobs in industries in Western Australia with making sure that we look after our environment because as legislators we have a responsibility to do that. I am going to very briefly touch on an important local issue. We have climate change deniers on the other side of the chamber and, in fact, on the other side of the country. Members of the Liberal Party and Nationals WA deny that climate change exists. This points to one of my earlier points around the fact that many people contacted my electorate office last summer due to a severe lack of rainfall and the drying climate we experienced that saw trees suffering and the canopy of jarrah and marri trees dying off in my electorate. I highlight that because it shows us that Liberal–National governments make reckless decisions on our environment in stark contrast to this state Labor government.

I will touch on a reckless and contentious decision on a topic that is up for discussion in my community at the moment—that is, a proposal for a nuclear power station at the Muja power station site. The Minister for Energy and I have spoken at length in Parliament about this issue. I want to update the minister that the grievance on this issue has now been viewed, I think, 25 000 times. People are really interested in the topic. I highlight this for a particular reason. Firstly, the thought of nuclear power horrifies us for a number of reasons. It does not fit our energy system and will not meet our needs in the short-to-medium term. Nuclear power stations are risky and reckless

and at this point in time the proposals are uncostered. For those reasons, we cannot pursue a nuclear future for Western Australia, and certainly not in my electorate of Collie. What we do with nuclear waste and the processing of nuclear waste would jeopardise the natural environment.

Another of my concerns about nuclear power was highlighted yesterday morning while I was lying in bed in Collie. I was catching up on what was happening in the world when I heard a crack of thunder that was unlike anything I had ever heard before and my house started to rumble. My kids on the other side of the house woke up. My whole house rumbled. My bed, the windows and everything else was shaking. It was the first of two earthquakes that hit Collie yesterday. The first one was 2.7 in magnitude. It was followed by an earthquake of magnitude 2 about three minutes later. It is not the first time I have felt an earthquake in Collie; others have woken me in the middle of the night. In fact, this one was probably less severe than previous ones. Guess what people were saying straightaway on the community notice board? They were saying it is madness to even consider a nuclear reactor in Collie when there are known fault lines and it experiences earthquakes, with two yesterday. We talk about Liberal–National governments being reckless on the environment. Here we have another reckless, stupid decision that Mr Dutton, his party and friends are considering at the federal level.

I am going to wrap up my contribution shortly, but I have a couple of final remarks returning to focus on Wellington National Park, which will benefit from the Reserves Bill. I will mention a photo I have of me, my daughter, my husband and my son. My daughter was maybe three years old. She is now 20, so we will call the photo 17 years old. We had travelled to Wellington National Park to see the dam overflowing. It has happened in only two of the 20 years that I have lived in Collie. The only time people used to visit the dam wall was to see it overflowing. As it got close to overflowing, we would drive out to the dam. People could see the water just going over; it would peek over the top. It was the spectacle of the year to watch the dam overflowing.

Ms S.E. Winton: It's a dangerous time.

Ms J.L. HANNS: We were not in the downstream flow.

Now, nearly 300 000 people visit the dam wall every year in response to the tourism opportunities that this government has activated in Wellington National Park. That was highlighted to me the other day while I was at the hairdressers; I was getting the greys covered up! I got talking to the lady sitting next to me, as you do. She was visiting Perth from Newcastle. It was her first visit to Perth. They had flown over and hired a car to tour around and stay at different places in Western Australia. I asked her where she had been. She said Rottnest, Margaret River and Collie, and I just about fell off my chair. She said that Collie is being spoken about in her Newcastle community as a must-visit destination, and she had been told about it by friends who had visited previously. They added my home town to their itinerary based on the word of mouth of people living in the eastern states.

In summary, the Wellington National Park expansion has absolutely helped to create opportunities for Collie. It is a must-see destination. I guess the government's vision is that we can do that right across the state wherever these reserves exist, whether it is the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the great southern or any part of the coastline that we have talked about today. Reverses can absolutely do two things: one is to diversify local economies and the second is to lock in protections for really important environmental reserves for future generations to enjoy.

I commend the bill to the house.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): The question is that the bill be read a second time. I give the call to the member for Mirrabooka—still the member for Mirrabooka.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.08 pm]: Thank you, Acting Speaker. I am still the member for Mirrabooka, at least until the next election, when I will try to follow in your esteemed footsteps as the member for Girrawheen, with some good luck.

I rise today to make a contribution to the second reading debate of the Reserves Bill 2024. I want to begin by acknowledging the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Lands, who has carriage of the bill. It is the first bill that he is seeing through the house. I congratulate him for doing that. It is a really important piece of legislation. A number of other members have spoken very well before me on the importance of preserving our natural heritage in reserves so that it not only can be enjoyed today, but also so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

During my contribution today, I also wanted to talk about some of the bushland in my electorate in particular and some of the other natural parks and reserves around the state. As other speakers before me have said, this bill specifically deals with adding some conservation areas, most notably the one in the Shire of Wandering, to the list of A-class conservation reserves. A number of other smaller reserves are included in this bill as a way of efficiently ensuring that they are all protected. I did not propose to speak at length about the intent of this bill; it has been well covered by others, along with the fact that certain species, trees and ecosystems will be protected as a result of the passage of this bill. I note that the bushland that will be preserved is near Dryandra Woodland, one of the really great conservation reserves in the great southern region. Sadly, I have not had the opportunity to visit that

reserve, although I intend to do so. I am sure the member for Roe has been there. It is a good piece of conservation. People can interact with it at night and enjoy observing the marsupial animals.

During my contribution today, I wanted to talk a little about the Koondoola Regional Bushland, a not very well known section of bush in my electorate of Mirrabooka. Some members may be aware of it but the majority may not. If they have not been there, I encourage them to do so. It is a significant piece of remnant bushland. It used to be wetlands. It covers 137 hectares in the suburb of Koondoola. When we look at it on a map, we see that it takes up roughly half the suburb. It is a significant reserve of bush in our urban area. We have heard members talk about Kings Park. The member for Rockingham talked about “Kings Park by the sea”. A number of members have been working to ensure that Yellagonga Regional Park is recognised as significant regional bushland.

While I am on my feet, I will give a bit of a plug to Koondoola bushland. For those who know the area, it is bordered by Marangaroo Drive, Alexander Drive, Koondoola Avenue and Beach Road. A Water Corporation water treatment plant on the eastern side has been there for some time. It also used to be a former wetlands; it was not historically bushland. I will provide some history of the area, which is widely used by the community for recreation purposes. When the suburb was established around 1969, the land was originally intended to be used for social housing, and potentially for Perth’s second airport. However, the land was obviously not used for an airport. It was also not used for a large social housing development.

Since 1995, the area has been included on the national estate as an A-class reserve. In 2000, it was listed as a Bushland Forever site—site 201, for those who might be interested. That kind of speaks to what this bill seeks to do. Today that bit of bush in my community is widely used. People come from outside the immediate area to take advantage of it. It is substantially remnant natural bushland. It has a number of important conservation elements to it, which I will talk about in a minute. People use it for exercising, walking their dogs and cycling. Different decisions that might have been made in 1969 or before the area was listed as an A-class reserve in 1995 could have seen it turned into housing or potentially an airport, according to the history books. Today we are fortunate to have such a large and significant bushland area in Koondoola. It is a great attribute for the suburb generally. It provides for so much wildlife in that suburb. Birds, in particular, use the area to live and nest and what have you. We also see them out and about in the suburbs. The foresight of reserving bushland is very important for the generations that will come after us. I want to acknowledge the people who had the foresight to reserve that piece of bush so that we are able to enjoy it today.

The area is also conservationally important. Friends groups and councils also take an interest in these bushland areas. Some 274 native plant species have been recorded at the site and three of those are considered significant. That is quite remarkable for a suburban piece of bushland. It has many different trees that people can enjoy, such as banksias, jarrah, flooded gums and paperbark trees. During spring, a large number of wildflowers can be seen, including 28 species of orchids and red and green kangaroo paws. It is quite a significant piece of bush. Most people who go there may not take into account the conservation values of the area, but many people enjoy that aspect. A number of species that are either endangered or threatened live there, including the Carnaby’s black-cockatoo, the western jewel butterfly, which I believe is threatened, the graceful sun-moth, which is rare, as well as quendas, western brush wallabies, the western thornbill and the rainbow bee-eater, which is a migratory bird. When walking through the area, it is not unusual to come across kangaroos. Of course, there are also many reptiles, birds, beetles and snakes, which we can find in all suburban bushlands. Indeed, they do not restrict themselves to bushland; they are in the suburbs too. The area provides a really important habitat for preserving a number of plant and animal species so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

We now have a really good understanding of the importance of bushlands providing corridors for animals and birds to move through green corridors over larger areas. We have developed a better appreciation of that. It is not just about the preservation of the bushland; it is about making sure that the natural landscapes of reserves are joined up so that when animals and birds need to, they can move across much larger areas.

I mentioned earlier that there were once wetlands in this bushland. I enjoyed the contribution from the member for Bassendean about the wetlands in his area—the Ashfield Flats. There were also wetlands in the part of the world I am referring to but they have substantially become dry. Unfortunately, some of the frogs and other animals that may have once lived there and relied on the water cannot be found. The reserve includes about nine kilometres of pathways, which is a substantial distance. Some of them are sealed and some are unsealed. They make the bushland accessible to the public. In particular, the sealed pathways have a number of signs on them, so they can be appreciated by people in wheelchairs or what have you. It is a really important piece of bush.

I wanted to give my thanks to Jennie Villiers, who leads Friends of Koondoola Bushland, a very important community group. I want to recognise the work that she does. She has explained to me many of the great values of this bit of bushland. She also does an incredible job bringing community members together to care for the bushland and provides people with the opportunity to go on guided walks through the area, thereby building their understanding of the value of that bushland area. These friends groups are usually pretty small. The people who run them take on

quite a lot of work. They are not remunerated for it; they do it on a volunteer basis. I want to give a shout-out to Jennie for the work she does, and all members of the Friends of Koondoola Bushland group, because I think they do an excellent job.

With the Minister for Environment, I conducted a community walk through the bushland. About 20 or 30 people came to that. Obviously, all these people live in the electorate of Mirrabooka, so they live locally. When I advertised that event, many people responded that they wanted to come and be a part of it. Some of them had never been to that bushland before. It provided them with their first opportunity to enter that bushland, even though they lived or worked in that local area. I thank the Minister for Environment for coming and doing that; I thought it was a really great day. It was in the middle of June and it unfortunately did not rain, but it was a very good way to not just get a firsthand account from Jenny and the friends group, but also ensure that people in the community had the opportunity to experience that bushland and learn more about it.

One thing that I think is great about Koondoola Regional Bushland is the size of it. Having remnant bushland is incredibly valuable, but having large tracts of bushland is fantastic. I think it would be possible to get lost in there as the tracks weave and wind around. As someone who grew up in the country, getting lost in a bit of natural bush like Koondoola bushland is a safe experience, but I would not recommend that people get lost in very large tracts of national parks. Koondoola bushland is a great place for people to lose themselves in the natural environment and enjoy some of the fantastic things that come from spending time in nature. As I said, that bushland provides a lot of benefits to the suburb of Koondoola. It enables people to see birds and other wildlife, contributes significantly to our tree canopy and encourages people to get out and about to take advantage of the outdoors and the benefits that come from having a connection to nature.

I also want to reflect on some of the challenges that come with urban bushland, which I know other members of this place will be mindful of. Perhaps one of the most significant challenges with Koondoola bushland is the potential fire risk from having a large amount of bush there. There have been fires there at different times. Fortunately, they have not caused problems in the remainder of the suburb, but that potential certainly exists. Having active bushfire management for these areas is incredibly important.

The other challenge with this bushland and other remnant bushland is the need to rehabilitate the land to overcome the impacts of earlier uses. There is definitely a need to rehabilitate parts of Koondoola bushland. As I mentioned, it has a water treatment plant on it. There is also the impact of weeds and other introduced species. Having programs to manage weeds or introduced species so that they do not overtake the natural vegetation is incredibly important. As we are seeing in some areas, it is really important that we manage dieback spread as a result of increased human activity to ensure that we preserve and protect bushland so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. Preserving bushland is important in the first instance, and this bill is an incredibly important part of that. However, there is an ongoing need for us to make sure that we manage our natural resources in a way that protects and preserves them for future generations. We need to ensure that they are not degraded over time and that we repair previous degradation and return these areas to their natural state.

In the time that I have remaining, I want to talk a bit more broadly. A number of other speakers have spoken about the work that we have done through the Plan for Our Parks. I want to acknowledge that, although I do not plan to spend a lot of time on it today. The vision and foresight to ensure that large parts of Western Australia will be available for future generations to enjoy is one of the great success stories of this government. I take this opportunity to commend the minister and all caucus members who supported this far-reaching decision to ensure that our state's natural heritage is preserved so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. In saying that, I want to reflect a little on the decision to preserve Ningaloo and Exmouth as a World Heritage-listed site. I had the opportunity to go there on a family holiday earlier this year and it was an incredible experience. Members have spoken in this house before about what an incredible experience it is to swim with whale sharks, visit the beautiful Cape Range National Park and snorkel off the coast at places like Turquoise Bay, with its incredible marine life, such as turtles. It is a really fantastic experience. The only time that I had been to Exmouth before was when I was about five years old—I was a very young child. I do not have strong memories, but I definitely have some memories of it. We travelled up there to see some friends of my mum and dad and we stayed for a period of time. At that time, the natural heritage values of that area were not acknowledged, enjoyed or celebrated, as far as I can recall. The biggest thing about Exmouth at the time was the US base, so we went to the base and had all those experiences. We did not go fishing, we did not go out on a boat, we did not go snorkelling—we did not do a whole range of things that are now the main attraction for people to go to that area. In my mind, I thought of Exmouth as “whatever”, but it has been transformed. We now recognise the natural heritage of that area and celebrate the incredible natural environment of both the ocean and the land.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: That incredible natural landscape has been preserved. We recognise its tourism potential. It is a world-class destination that people from all over the world are coming here to enjoy. I think that underscores

how important the work to preserve the beautiful uniqueness of Western Australia really is. We might think that some bushland is commonplace and not that important, but I think it is all incredibly valuable and beautiful. We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. We are very lucky to live in Western Australia. Ensuring that we are able to protect our natural beauty and heritage for future generations to enjoy is important. However, it is not just about future generations; it is also about the potential economic development that can come from managing these assets in a way that showcases them to the world. The member for Collie-Preston spoke very well about the transition into having tourist assets that can bring people from far afield to enjoy the incredible natural beauty that we have.

The final thing that I want to reflect on—there is a lot and I could go on for ages —

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Take your time, member.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: I do not think the member for Cockburn wants to hear it all. It would rapidly descend into a less useful contribution.

Obviously, Ningaloo is an incredibly important natural asset—everyone knows about it and it brings tourists from all over—but it is not just about those big, iconic destinations. I actually think that what regional, local reserves deliver is incredibly valuable. I have already reflected on the incredible benefits Koondoola bushland provides to the people who live in that suburb. In writing my contribution, I reflected on my childhood. As I have said before, I grew up in the country, so I had access to plenty of wide, open spaces and nature. We lived just down the road from a big A-class reserve—that is, remnant bushland that had been preserved. We spent a huge amount of time there as kids. We had lots of opportunities to do lots of outdoor things—playing in creeks and all the other stuff that kids do on farms—but that natural reserve was like a magnet for us because of the opportunity to interact with bushland that had not been altered or affected in a substantial way. It is really valuable to think about bushland areas and other natural assets in terms of the preservation of both iconic destinations and iconic natural environments and what might be considered to be more suburban or pedestrian reserves, because they also provide amazing opportunities for the people who live near them to recreate and interact with the natural environment.

The reserve I grew up near had an incredible array of wildflowers, and people often travelled from neighbouring towns to hunt and photograph the various orchids and other wildflowers that flowered there. A lot of wildlife is able to live in that area as well. All these areas had their own histories. It is quite interesting to reflect on that. This bit of bushland was reserved because it originally had a dam to provide water to assist with trains. The member for Roe might be familiar with the Nookanellup railway line, which was quite close. The origins of that reserve were the area's industrial purpose and that is why it had not been converted into farmland, but things moved on over time. Again, once the land was no longer needed for that purpose, the foresight to ensure it was retained as a reserve meant we were able to enjoy it.

This government has done a great deal of work to preserve our natural environment—stop the logging of old-growth forests, make sure we preserve parkland through our Plan for Our Parks and preserve our reserve land for future generations to enjoy. I take the opportunity to reflect on that. I conclude my contribution by saying how important that work is. It is not just about doing it today, it is about having the foresight to understand what that will look like in future years. It is about recognising that many of these areas bring renewed opportunities through tourism. This government has a great track record of investing in those opportunities to convert places into tourism experiences. Again, Collie is a terrific example of that—namely, how the preservation of bushland and some iconic tourist attractions can generate other industries. We are doing really valuable work. This bill is one part of that overall piece of work. I close by commending the parliamentary secretary for his work, and conclude my contribution.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.31 pm] — in reply: I start by thanking all members for their contributions to the second reading debate on the Reserves Bill 2024. It has been a privilege to carry the bill through this chamber. I give my thanks to the Minister for Planning; Plans; Housing; Homelessness, to whom I am fortunate to be parliamentary secretary. I thank the minister because he delegated carriage of this bill to me early in the year, and it has been a great opportunity to work with the advisers and staff on its coming together and introduction to Parliament. I thank the minister for that opportunity. I thank members for participating in the debate in a really constructive, if wideranging, manner. I will go through each member's contribution, acknowledge them and highlights the points they made.

The Reserves Bill 2024 has a number of different elements. At its core, it is relatively technical in nature as it is focused on tidying up land tenure arrangements for various reserves throughout Western Australia. I will come back later to the establishment of the conservation park in the Shire of Wandering, which is probably the most significant development in this bill.

On the whole, this bill will effect a series of administrative changes to the boundaries, size and purposes of reserves throughout Western Australia. In that sense, although it is a technical bill, it also presents a great opportunity for members to reflect on conservation and the importance of bushland and our nature reserves in regional WA and, as

the member of the Mirrabooka spoke to just then, our metropolitan area. I really acknowledge that, and I acknowledge that in the context of what many members have said about the Cook government's and the McGowan government's contribution to preserving our natural world, in particular our Plan for Our Parks.

I firstly thank the member for Thornlie for his contribution to debate on this bill. The member for Thornlie reflected in his contribution that that speech may be his final contribution to a second reading debate in the Parliament. I acknowledge that and acknowledge him for his dedicated service to the Parliament of Western Australia, the people of Western Australia and particularly his constituents in the electorate of Thornlie. The member was elected as the member for Gosnells in 2008. As a quite young member of the Labor Party, I had the privilege to work with the member for Thornlie in his capacity as shadow Minister for Environment, because I was the convener of the Labor Party's environment and climate change policy committee. The member for Thornlie and I spent many nights in the Labor Party's central office going over the policy platform, speaking to members and trying to design a policy offering of the Labor Party that struck the balance between our commitment to conservation, which I think is represented in this bill today, and to ensuring that working in this state people enjoy economic prosperity. I often think the Labor Party has the toughest job when it comes to conservation because we are always outflanked on the left by the Greens political party and on the right by the Liberal Party and Nationals WA, which are implacably opposed to any sensible measures of conservation. The member for Thornlie has been a principled voice in this chamber on the environment, climate and decarbonisation. I thank him for his friendship and mentorship over the years, and I wish him the very best. If this does turn out to be the last second reading debate he contributes to, I think it is a very fitting bill for him to go out on.

In his contribution, the member for Thornlie reflected on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. The establishment of the South Coast Marine Park is obviously not touched on in the clauses of this bill, but it has led to some heat and might in the debate. The member for Roe is passionate about this issue as well. Given the issue was raised, I will go it at some point in my contribution. I have become obliged to do so because it was raised by a number of members. I note, coming off my comments about the member for Thornlie being a principled voice who has always tried to strike the right balance, that he made the point that marine parks have historically come up against opposition. He made the point that the sort of opposition we have seen to the South Coast Marine Park is very similar to the opposition there was to the Ningaloo Marine Park. The member for Thornlie pointed out that fishing and recreational boating around Ningaloo is better now than before the establishment of that marine park. He also made the point that that is why sensible decisions must be made about marine conservation because it has environmental value and leads to long-term value for people involved in recreational activities like fishing.

I move on to the member for Roe. I acknowledge him for his contribution and I acknowledge that the opposition will support the bill. I appreciate that indication from the member. As I said, he responded to the member for Thornlie on the South Coast Marine Park, which is obviously a matter of concern to him as a local member. I appreciate the role the member for Roe has to play as a local member on that issue. Local members' obligations to the political party they represent, the government or the opposition to which they belong, the procedures of the Parliament and the ultimate obligation they have to their constituents are something of a balancing act that they all have to do. I recognise that although the member for Roe was making his contribution to this bill as the opposition spokesperson, he was also speaking as the local member for Roe, an area that is affected by the South Cost Marine Park proposal. I welcome the member's contribution on the creation of the conservation reserve in Wandering. I have to admit that I am a boy of the south west, but not so much of the great southern or the wheatbelt. I think I have probably driven past the Shire of Wandering and maybe briefly through it on Albany Highway, but I cannot claim any particular personal knowledge of it. I have heard these great stories about the Dryandra Woodland. I have certainly had plenty of experience with the northern jarrah forest around the Dwellingup area. I think the observation was made by a number of members that the establishment of this Wandering conservation park will in some ways help to knit together those two significant ecosystems in Western Australia in the middle. I hope at some point in the near future to go out there. Perhaps I will celebrate the passing of this bill at some point by visiting the conservation reserve when it is established.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I think you should.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes; I think that deserves doing. I was a little disappointed by the member for Roe, though, taking the opportunity to veer into the issue of native forestry. I will come back to that issue later on because it has attracted attention from a number of members. The member also raised the issue of the federal government banning the live export industry, which, again, I thought was perhaps a draw of the longbow, but I understand that the member wanted to make a point about various industries that are in transition. I will return to that point in my substantive remarks.

I note that the member for Roe referred to the changes in this bill as being modest, sensible changes that have been made in consultation with local governments. He mentioned that Hon Steve Martin, who I believe is the shadow minister on this bill, had contacted the affected shires and received from those shires no opposition to the creation of the reserves under this bill and the various measures tidying up reserves. That is really great to hear. I think it is

a good example of the Cook government proceeding in a sensible way with consultation with affected stakeholders like local governments, as we do in other areas with industry stakeholders or community groups. It was really pleasing to get that feedback. One point I made in the second reading speech for this bill was that by pulling together all the various clauses that deal with different reserves and tidying up their boundaries and purposes, we are expediting parliamentary business. I thank the member for Roe for noting that.

Next, we heard from the member for Southern River. He referred to his good fortune in living next door to a beautiful part of the Southern River and the Canning River. My sister and brother-in-law are very lucky to live in the member for Southern River's electorate and to have him as their local member. I think we can all agree that there is no more enthusiastic a local member than the member for Southern River. I agree with him that that area around Southern River is a real gem. The Canning River system is small—it is not like the Swan River—but it is a really precious ecosystem, which is beloved by people in that community. There are conservation parks around that area as well that I know are really significant to families in Perth. For example, Ellis Brook Valley Reserve in the City of Gosnells is really quite an incredible reserve, and I encourage members to go there because it is in the City of Gosnells, but people really feel like they are out in the middle of the country when they are there. It has a beautiful walk trail up the brook and a waterfall, and it is very close to the member for Southern River's electorate, if not in it.

The member for Southern River also reflected on his history as a cub, a scout, a venturer and a rover. I have to admit that I was a cub at one point and a sea scout as well, but I never made it as far as —

Mr D.A. Templeman: Sea scout?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: A sea scout, member for Mandurah.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): As in "Hello, sailor!"

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: My father was a Navy man, Acting Speaker. He would be better able to engage in some banter with you on that particular topic, but I am not experienced in these matters. My dad would also want me to add that he was an Air Force man, and that he ended up a Navy man only because he got tricked by the recruiters who told him that that would be the fastest way for him to fly planes following World War II because he was an Air Force cadet in the lead-up to the end of World War II. My dad, as members know, had me very late in life. He was 18 in 1945.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Really?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: He was. My dad was born in 1927. He was 18 in 1945 and was a keen young air cadet, ready to fly fighter planes and to engage the Japanese in the Pacific theatre of World War II. The war ended, and he often said that he was one of a few dozen blokes in Australia who was probably unhappy that the war ended because he was so gung-ho at 18 to get out there and serve his country. Anyway, after World War II, the RAF wound down as there was not much need for fighter pilots anymore, so there was not a pathway for dad to fly planes, which is what he wanted to do. Some clever recruiter said, "Don't worry, son. If you join the Navy, you will be able to fly planes."

Mr D.A. Templeman: Where was he a cadet? In WA?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: In Melbourne. He grew up in Preston, Melbourne. Some smart recruiter told him that going into the Navy would be the fastest way for him to fly planes, so he spent several years in the Navy before finally making it to the Air Force.

I digress, Acting Speaker, but I do not think I can be pulled up on a point of order because I was responding to you making those comments.

Back to the member for Southern River. He made the point that when he was a cub and a scout, he always earned his conservation badge. I think we can all agree that the member for Southern River still earns his badges in this chamber as well. He lives by the saying of "be prepared". I thank him for his advocacy.

He is not in the chamber anymore, but I want to particularly acknowledge the contribution of the Minister for Environment. He reflected on the government's signature policy in the area of conservation, which is our Plan for Our Parks. I was not aware of some of the things the minister said. I knew that Plan for Our Parks was a really ambitious policy, but I had not realised that, on its own, Plan for Our Parks has seen the largest increase in WA's conservation estate in our history. That is really quite extraordinary. It is a legacy that I think every member of the Labor government should be proud of. We have delivered it in less than the full two terms of government. The minister made the point as well that we will beat our targets by quite a margin for Plan for Our Parks by the end of this year. He kept us in suspense about precisely how much we will beat our targets by. He said that all will be revealed shortly. I congratulate him on that. Governments are usually happy when they meet their targets, let alone exceed them, and so that is a credit to the Minister for Environment and a great legacy for him as a minister in this place. He said we have increased the conservation estate by something like 30 per cent, which is really extraordinary. The minister also reflected on the impact that Aboriginal ranger programs can have in allowing traditional owners

to both care for their country and continue to nurture their cultural connection to country. Those Aboriginal ranger programs deliver employment and aspiration for Aboriginal communities, and the minister touched on how young people in those communities often look up to the rangers and see being a ranger as something to aspire to. Obviously, it is also an opportunity for people in those communities to work on country over a long period. Finally, the minister reflected on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park and noted that that marine park is the largest reserve to be established under the Plan for Our Parks.

The member for Bassendean gave a contribution. He obviously gave that contribution with the history of being the previous Minister for Forestry—the minister who was able to make the announcement of the end of commercial logging in our south west forests. Again, similar to what I have just said about the Minister for Environment, that is a great legacy that the member for Bassendean will leave. Obviously, he remains in this place as a member of Parliament, but he is no longer the minister. I think that is a really significant achievement. He has completed work that we started more than 20 years ago, when the Gallop government announced the end of old growth logging in the south west. More than 20 years later, we have continued and, in many ways, completed that work by completely banning commercial logging in our native forests. That is a real credit to the member for Bassendean, the former Minister for Forestry.

The member for Bassendean also reflected on the seriousness of climate change and the role that our forests such as our south west forests play in combating climate change. He noted that there is some evidence that we are possibly already reaching the threshold of 1.5 degrees of global warming, which is a red line that the United Nations and other experts have strongly cautioned us against going beyond. We are really in uncharted territory with climate change at the moment. There are important things that we can do at local, state, national and global levels. One thing we can do at the state level is preserve as much of our conservation estate as possible. Our native forests are incredible carbon sinks. They are places of great biodiversity that will be used and appreciated by future generations, so they have a role in not only the here and now, but also as part of the state’s response to climate change. Of course, the member for Bassendean reflected on the importance of that local action. He acknowledged a couple of community groups in his electorate that are also taking action against climate change at a local level, and I acknowledge them as well.

We next heard from the member for Rockingham. She reflected on some of the great reserves in her electorate. She particularly pointed to—sorry, that is a bit of a pun—Point Peron in her electorate, and she made the claim, apparently supported by the Minister for Environment, that Point Peron is the “Kings Park of the South”, or “Kings Park by the Sea”. I think that the member will find that, actually, Woodman Point Regional Park in Cockburn is the Kings Park by the sea!

Mr M.J. Folkard: Will you take an interjection there?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Certainly, member for Burns Beach.

Mr M.J. Folkard: I think that Joondalup and Lake Yellagonga up in the northern corridor could be seen as a competitive argument against that statement.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): I believe, member, that is actually called the “Kings Park of the North”!

Mr M.J. Folkard: There you go. Thank you, Acting Speaker.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I was going to make two points on that, member for Burns Beach. It could not claim to be the Kings Park of the south. Also, I am not sure whether Yellagonga Regional Park is contiguous with the coastline, is it? Whereas Woodman Point Regional Park is, just like Peron Point.

Mr M.J. Folkard: But the botanical value is what I’m referring to.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I am saying that these are direct comparators. I am putting my hat on as the member for Cockburn and putting in a vote for Woodman Point Regional Park as being Kings Park by the sea, in contradistinction to the member for Rockingham’s claims. But I acknowledge the great conservational and recreational value of Point Peron. I was impressed to hear that the member for Rockingham has coordinated a running club—the Point Peron run club. I can tell the member for Rockingham that the one thing she will never see me do is coordinate a run club for Woodman Point. Woodman Point is actually pretty flat, but, even then, I would not coordinate a run club for it. The member for Rockingham leaves me in awe of all the different activities she does as a new member of Parliament and a new mum, and also an incredible local member who is active inside and outside this chamber, and also a very fit person. People like the member for Rockingham and the Minister for Education make me exhausted when I hear about the things they do in their lives.

I recognise what the member for Rockingham said about Point Peron being announced as a class A reserve last year. That is a great announcement from the Cook government. It means that Point Peron will now have the same level of recognition and protection as Woodman Point, which is also a class A reserve. That is the highest level of protection that can be afforded to a reserve. I am really pleased to hear that the master plan has been released as

of Friday last week. It is an example of the Cook government getting on with the job of preserving significant areas like Point Peron and doing so in a way that consults with the community and makes sure that we preserve environmental and social values.

I want to reflect on something that relates to the bill. One type of park arrangement that the bill refers to is a regional park. We are establishing a conservation park in Wandering, but another type of park that can be created is a regional park, which is what is at Woodman Point. I thought members might be interested to know that a regional park does not have any less protection than, say, a conservation park, but we designate something as a regional park—like Yellagonga, Beeliar and Woodman Point Regional Parks—if the park covers land that has lots of different land tenure arrangements. For example, some of the land at Woodman Point belongs to the City of Cockburn; some land down at the recreation camp belongs to the Department of Education; some belongs to the Department of Transport, particularly around the boat ramps; and there is also land that probably belongs to the Western Australian Planning Commission and Main Roads. We have all these different parcels of land, and the land tenures sit with various different government agencies and local governments. In those cases, if those areas together have combined significant conservational value, we can designate them as a regional park and they then get a particular governance framework put around them for their management going forward. The other great example in my neck of the woods is Beeliar Regional Park, which stretches all the way from the City of Melville around the Blue Gum Lake area all the way to the Spectacles in the City of Kwinana. It is a patchwork of parks for which the land tenure sits with different local governments and state government agencies, its overall conservational value has been recognised and it has been designated, protected and managed as a regional park.

I move on to the contribution of the member for Collie–Preston, who talked about preserving our south west forests. I thought that she talked in inspirational terms about the king jarrah and the history of the conservation of that significant tree in her electorate. I want to say this to the member for Collie–Preston. I have not done it for a couple of years—I need to get back to it—but I am a mad keen hiker, and I love to hike sections of the Bibbulmun. I have done lots of hikes overseas, as well, often on my own, and the first place I went hiking when I was at university was on the Bibbulmun Track around Collie. It is a really stunning part of the world. The member for Collie–Preston and I have a bit of banter, because I am a boy from Australind. I think they call us “flat landers” in the town of Collie. I will not tell members what people in Australind call people from the town of Collie!

Ms J.L. Hanns: Fine upstanding citizens, member for Cockburn!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: You keep telling yourself that, member for Collie–Preston! I actually call them “good Labor-voting people”!

Mrs L.A. Munday: As a young resident of Harvey, we had a few, too!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes! I started hiking there; it is just a beautiful area. I, too, have fond childhood memories of driving out to Wellington Dam when it was overflowing. That was an event in my family. Everyone would jump in the car, we would take a picnic, go out to Wellington Dam and watch it overflow. I have really fond childhood memories of that. I think it speaks to the fact that Collie has obviously long been a coalmining and coal-fired power producing town, but around it are a lot of natural assets that have been unlocked and made the most of only because of the work of successive Labor governments and of people like the member for Collie–Preston and her predecessor, Mick Murray. Some of the diversification of Collie’s industry and the promotion of Collie as a tourist destination that has great natural assets is a credit to the member for Collie–Preston. It has really been a transformation in that town.

On the topic of childhood trips to Wellington Dam, it is really great to hear about Wellington National Park being expanded. Does Wellington National Park include Honeymoon Pool, member for Collie–Preston?

Ms J.L. Hanns: Yes.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes, it does. I have lots of good, fond childhood memories of going there. I had not realised that we had expanded that national park. I had missed that bit of news, so it is really great to hear that.

Finally, we heard from the member for Mirrabooka. In her contribution, she focused on the particular importance of urban bushland and she referenced Koondoola Regional Bushland in her electorate. I had not been aware that such a large tract of urban bushland is in the member’s electorate. The member referred to how the Koondoola bushland takes up roughly half of the whole suburb and is a really important place for local people and, obviously, for the biodiversity of our animals and flora. It is somewhere really important to local people, and I connect with that. I am very fortunate in Beeliar to live just next to Thomsons Lake and Kogolup Lake, which are areas of high conservation value. For example, Thomsons Lake is a Ramsar Convention-listed and internationally recognised bird migration wetland. It is also an area that local people love to live near, experience and go for walks in. There is a track around the outside where people can walk their dog. I have had a few quendas in my garden because we live so close to that bushland. I want to acknowledge the member’s mention of the Koondoola bushland and support her comments about the importance of urban bushland.

The member for Mirrabooka also reflected on the establishment of Ningaloo Marine Park. She has been there recently. I have to confess that I have never made it to Ningaloo. I would really love to go. The member for Mirrabooka made the point that it is only through the foresight of previous Labor governments that we now have that area of significant natural beauty, recreational value and environmental value protected and able to be enjoyed. That was another contribution from the member for Mirrabooka that focused on the need for governments to take action now to preserve the future and provide for future generations. I would like to think that the Reserves Bill 2024 is part of that. Obviously, the bill will do the technical tidying up, but it will also establish the Wandering Conservation Park, which will be a park that future generations can enjoy. The park will help to knit together the northern jarrah forests around Dwellingup and the Dryandra Woodland, and it will create that important ecological linkage going forward.

I thank all members for their contributions. It is really fantastic to hear from members on a diversity of issues that touch on reserves and about how those issues are relevant to their electorates. As I foreshadowed at the start, I need to reflect on the issue of the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. The Minister for Environment made some comments on this, and I would like to add to the minister's contribution. One of the criticisms that the member for Roe made repeatedly about the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park was about the lack of consultation. This is plainly a furphy. If we go through the history of consultation on that issue, there has been more engagement and more consultation with the community on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park than on the establishment of any marine park in the history of Western Australia. The Labor government established a community reference committee, which had an independent chair. That committee met six times over a period of 18 months. An independent chair ran a community reference committee that met regularly over a significant period. The government established 11 sectoral advisory groups, including advisory groups for industries and sectors like recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism and conservation. They included all the different stakeholders—people who obviously have strong views about conserving our natural environment and our marine environment on the south coast of WA, but also people who have a stake in existing recreational and commercial fishing activities within the boundaries of that marine park.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions offered meetings with every commercial fishing licence holder located in the region. I want to repeat that: DBCA offered meetings with every commercial fishing licence holder located in the region. That is a significant offering from the department. The initial statutory public comment period was for three months, but the government extended that to four months, so it went above and beyond what had been originally proposed. When pop-up shops were held with marine park planners in Esperance, 109 appointments were taken. Marine park planners engaged directly with the community on over 100 occasions just at those pop-up shops. The minister and his office met with a range of stakeholders over the period in which the marine park was consulted on. They met with the Shire of Esperance, Esperance-based fishers and state peak bodies, including Recfishwest, the Western Australia Fishing Industry Council and the Abalone Industry Association of Western Australia, so there was extensive consultation.

I go back to the comments I made earlier. I understand that the member for Roe, as the local member, has a job to do in being an advocate for his local community. I understand and respect that, but all members of this place also know that there is often tension in that role. Sometimes, we have to rise above misinformation and negativity and play a leadership role in the region. We have to have a forward-looking vision for our region. We cannot buy in to all the scaremongering and negativity. As a member of this place, it can be irresponsible to be amplifying that without reasonable cause. Unfortunately, one area in which I think the member for Roe has over-egged things has been the alleged lack of consultation. As I pointed out, there has been very significant consultation in this area. Yes, there will be people who are unhappy with the proposal, but that always happens no matter what. We could do consultation for 100 years, and at the end of consultation, whatever decision was made, we would still have some people who are unhappy and some people who are happy. People's happiness with a decision is not a measure of whether consultation took place. It is quite clear, given the matters that I have just adverted to, that the minister and the DBCA have done significant amounts of consultation. I do not think it is worth the member over-egging that issue.

The next issue that I foreshadowed wanting to touch on was native forestry. I am a big supporter of the government's decision to ban commercial logging in our south west forests. As I say, this continues the work of previous Labor governments. The forests are incredible natural assets. Anybody who has been around our south west forests knows how extraordinary they are. They are a great asset, whether people are engaged in recreational activities like hiking or in industries like tourism, and they are also significant for preserving and promoting biodiversity and for being part of the government's contribution to addressing climate change.

The member for Roe made a comment that I thought was disappointing, and I will give him the opportunity to respond to this if he would like. He made some comments about the stockpiling of jarrah timber by the Forest Products Commission. I am going to quote from the member's second reading debate contribution from 7 November. The member for Roe said —

I was talking to someone the other day about the Forest Products Commission stockpiling jarrah timber and the like. Furniture makers and others would readily use the timber. Instead, it is being stockpiled and then, all of a sudden, we have the scenario of those logs salvaged from the mine site going in a furnace because the government has a state agreement obliging it to supply logs to produce charcoal for the production of silicon. Why are our valuable jarrah logs being used to produce materials such as charcoal? Seriously! I would like the Minister for Forestry to look at that. The person I spoke to the other day was quite dismayed by that.

I understand the member for Roe to be referring to the operations of Simcoa in Kemerton. Is that correct?

Mr P.J. Rundle: That's correct.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Without naming it, the member for Roe referred to the operations of Simcoa. I thought that was really disappointing. He was basically saying that we should not use the timber that has been stockpiled from, for example, thinning or in this case from mining to —

Mr P.J. Rundle: There are some beautiful jarrah logs —

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I will get to that, member for Roe. He is saying that we should not be using those assets that have been logged as part of mining operations to support a local business like Simcoa. The member for Roe is suggesting that we should not support Simcoa! I grew up in Australind. Simcoa is based in Kemerton. I know many families with people employed at Simcoa. Simcoa employs almost 200 people in that community. It is a really significant operation that has been going for decades. It supplies silicon that is used in a variety of really important products such as silicon microchips and solar panels, yet the member for Roe said in his contribution that we should not supply logs to Simcoa to support its employment.

Mr P.J. Rundle: No—not beautiful jarrah logs. They should be made into furniture —

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: That is not true. I will get to that, member for Roe. That is actually not the case because the logs that are being supplied to Simcoa are not appropriate for furniture making. Historically, Simcoa has used jarrah residue timber, and that has been the primary source of previous supply from the Forest Products Commission. It has also been able to utilise residue from other native forest and plantation species. The residue timber that Simcoa uses is interchangeable with firewood. It is not timber that is sawlog or high-value log; they are not the same thing. Either the member for Roe was being misleading in his statements that we were taking timber for Simcoa that could otherwise be used for furniture making or he did not realise that. I am happy to correct the record, member for Roe. We are not taking logs that would be used for furniture making and diverting them to Simcoa. But in any event, I would have thought that he would support that. One of the things the member for Roe bangs on about is us shutting down local industries, yet in his contribution, he was basically bagging out the local business of Simcoa in Kemerton by saying that it should not be supplied with residue logs to be able to support operations that employ almost 200 people in the greater Bunbury region. I thought that was a misstep by the member for Roe. I will be sending a copy of this *Hansard* from the other day to Simcoa, and I will suggest that they contact the member for Roe to maybe invite him to tour its operations to educate himself about its operations and the importance of the employment opportunities.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I've already toured it with the member for Bunbury a few years ago.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The member for Roe has said that he has already toured it, so he has answered one of my earlier questions, which is that he is not ignorant about these matters.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I've already toured it with the member for Bunbury.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: That is what I just said! He has said that he is not ignorant about it. That answers my earlier question. I gave two options about what he was doing in his contribution and whether or not he was misleading or being ignorant. He is saying that he is not ignorant. That leaves one side of the dichotomy then, member for Roe. He walked into that one!

In closing, I want to just sum up this issue of the green credentials of the Cook government. It was an extraordinary performance in this place today to hear the opposition taking an announcement that the government and Premier gladly made yesterday morning about the development of Westport and attempting to turn it into a weapon to attack the government. We get these lectures from the member for Cottesloe, who I think has knocked off for the day. I suspect that if we ran a division now, there would not be too many members of the opposition to run to the chamber to vote on it.

I think the member for Cottesloe has knocked off, but he gives us these lectures about the damage to seagrass meadows in Cockburn Sound, which is a laugh for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is a laugh because when the member for Cottesloe was the president of the Kwinana Industries Council, the KIC produced several reports in glowing terms about the need for Westport. Of course, now he has a political attack line on the government, so he has taken it. He then also pretends that somehow, the member for Cottesloe, the Liberal Party and the National Party are the defenders of the environment, while at the same time they get up and will not support the banning of

commercial native logging and the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. This is why people believe that the Liberal and National Parties have no credibility on these issues. They use conservation as an attack line only when it suits them, but when we actually get down into the serious issues, they are opponents of conservation. They always have been, and they always will be.

On that note, I really thank members for their contributions. We have covered a lot of ground on some significant achievements of the Cook government that are sort of represented in the framework of this bill. I thank all members for their contributions. I thank the Minister for Lands as well for giving me carriage of this bill; it has been a great experience to bring it through this place. I look forward to its swift passage in coming weeks through the Legislative Council, Leader of the House. We obviously cannot dictate what that house does, and it has a bit of business before it, but I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.17 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [6.18 pm]: I wish to make a very brief contribution. I thank the parliamentary secretary for his points raised in reply. I am glad he listened closely to some of the points I made in my contribution. I recollect that the parliamentary secretary's last contribution about me was that I gave a "meandering contribution", but I am glad he addressed some of the points that I raised.

As members know, I am opposed to the South Coast Marine Park and the level of consultation involved. I stand here to represent my community, who I would generally say are 90 to 95 per cent against the South Coast Marine Park. The Minister for Environment has made his announcement, and we will press on from there, but the electors of the south coast will have a chance to have their say at the ballot box. Hopefully, they, along with those from many other electorates around the state, will overturn this government. As I said, I am curious that government members are strangely silent on Marmion Marine Park just off the coast of Perth because they do not want to rattle the cage of the voters in Scarborough and Hillarys and many other electorates. They are very silent. Their heads go down when Marmion Marine Park is mentioned.

Nonetheless, I would like to finish this debate on a positive note. The parliamentary secretary said that the opposition does not believe in conservation but I will happily take him to my office and show him a picture of our farm. In the early 1990s, my family and I basically recontoured the whole farm on our property in Katanning to control water and to conserve our soil. We put in 35 kilometres of drains. We re-fenced our whole farm and we planted 50 000 trees on our property. That was, as I said, to control water and the wind. We probably forgave somewhere between eight and 11 per cent of our land, but our calculations were that we had a 20 per cent gain in productivity. As I said, to finish on a positive note, I was down at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn two Friday nights ago where my father, Bronte, was inducted into the Western Australia Landcarers' Hall of Fame. I do, sort of, take the parliamentary secretary's comments on board but I would like to disagree on this occasion that all opposition members are against conservation. I am very proud of our family's work and the recognition of Bronte, my dad and, of course, June, my mum as well—and, of course, my wife, Andrea, who swears that she planted every one of those 50 000 trees —

Mr D.A. Templeman: What sort of trees are they?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It was a variation of mainly eucalyptus—spotted gum, red flowering gum, any other number, minister. I certainly support conservation in the right way but, I am very, very proud of our family's achievements on our farm, which I still live on. The other night at the event at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn, I said it got to a point at which we had probably in the order of three bus loads of people coming to our farm every week, whether it was school kids, the Esperance Landcare group or some other group from the wheatbelt or the like. It got to the point at which I said to dad, "Well, you keep going with the tour and the tour guiding, but I've got to do some farming!" I will end the debate there on a positive note, parliamentary secretary.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It could be the site for the next Woodstock.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes; that's it. As I said, the opposition supports the Reserves Bill. I will leave my contribution there.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.23 pm] — in reply: I am very happy to end the debate on the Reserves Bill 2024 on two positive notes. Firstly, I say to the member for Roe that I was at the Landcare annual gathering in the morning, representing Hon Jackie Jarvis at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn. I was not able to make it in the evening, but I passed on my and the minister's congratulations in advance to the people who were being inducted into the Landcarers' Hall of Fame that evening. I was not aware that the member's father

Extract from *Hansard*

[ASSEMBLY — Tuesday, 12 November 2024]

p6113b-6127a

Mrs Magenta Marshall; Ms Jodie Hanns; Ms Meredith Hammat; Mr David Scaife; Mr Peter Rundle

was one of them. I gave my congratulation in advance then and I give my congratulations now to the member for Roe's father, Bronte, on being inducted into the Landcarers' Hall of Fame. It should be noted that people in our agricultural industry—our farmers and people in our regional communities—in many cases have been good stewards of the land. To clarify, I am not suggesting that individuals, people in the farming industry or in particular communities are against conservation. I think the National Party and the Liberal Party are politically opposed to conservation. But I set that aside and I want to acknowledge the efforts of individuals in those communities, including the member's family, for the work they have done because there is no doubt much of the great work in Landcare has been done by people in our agricultural towns and regions.

Finally, on the most positive note, I want to thank all the advisers who assisted with this bill. I acknowledge Kate McKelvie from the Minister for Lands' office. Kate has been a constant source of support for me and she is the one who really knows how things work. I acknowledge Tony Richmond and Andrea Agocs from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and Nicola Mincham and Sandra Thomas from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. We all know bills like this and debates like this would not be possible without the assistance of advisers. Thank you very much.

In closing, I thank the opposition for their support of this bill. It is great to have bipartisan support on any issue, particularly when it comes to reserves in Western Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.