

ARTIFICIAL REEF — OCEAN REEF

Statement by Minister for Fisheries

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [12.13 pm]: On 15 May 2018, the McGowan Labor government announced a \$1 million initiative to install an artificial reef off the north metropolitan coast. Following extensive consultation and environmental approval, this reef is coming to fruition with the final concrete modules installed on Thursday, 20 May. The McGowan government has worked closely with Recfishwest on the location and design of the reef to maximise the benefits to those living in our rapidly expanding northern suburbs. On Thursday, 22 April, I was joined in Fremantle by the member for Joondalup, Emily Hamilton, MLA, to view the reef modules. The member has been an enthusiastic supporter of the reef project.

This new reef is funded through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund, which reinvests 25 per cent of recreational fishing licence revenue into projects benefiting recreational fishing. The new artificial reef will provide a location that can be enjoyed by recreational fishers and, importantly, benefit local businesses connected to recreational fishing and boating by attracting more visitors to the area. The reef is made up of 292 purpose-built reef modules located approximately seven kilometres west of Ocean Reef, at an approximate depth of 27 metres. The project has supported local jobs through its construction, including through the reef's design in Henderson, the pouring of the concrete modules in Jandakot, and the loading and deployment of the modules out of Fremantle. The reef is expected to become home to a range of fish species, including samson fish, silver trevally and pink snapper. It is the seventh purpose-built artificial reef to be installed in Western Australia over the past seven years, with reefs already off Dunsborough, Bunbury, Mandurah, Rottnest Island, Esperance and Exmouth. The state government is committed to creating safe, accessible, sustainable and enjoyable fishing experiences for all Western Australians. I look forward to overseeing the completion of three more new artificial reefs as part of the state government's \$6 million package to support the recreational fishing industry through the WA Recovery Plan.