

**SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK - MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Statement by Minister for the Environment*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment)** [2.10 pm]: I inform the house that I have recently released the final management plan for the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, which was prepared by the Department of Environment and Conservation on behalf of the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority. The plan is a culmination of many years of hard work by stakeholders for a marine park on Perth's southern doorstep. It reinforces the Carpenter government's commitment to a world-class system of marine parks and reserves along Western Australia's 13 500 kilometre coastline. The Shoalwater Islands Marine Park area is important for conservation, education, science and a growing tourism industry. The marine park contains a diverse range of habitats that are important for the largest breeding colony of little penguins in Western Australia, other seabirds and shorebirds, bottlenose dolphins, Australian sea lions and southern right whales and humpback whales. The park's waters support a range of commercial fisheries and recreational activities.

The management plan outlines strategies to manage the 6 600 hectare marine park by providing a framework to conserve its important ecological values, while also accommodating recreational and commercial activities. Approximately six per cent of the marine park is included in no-take sanctuary zones at Seal Island, Second Rock and Becher Point, with another nine per cent in highly protected special purpose zones in Shoalwater Bay and around the northern portion of Murray Reef. Most of the marine park will remain available for recreational uses, such as fishing, that are compatible with the conservation values of the area. The zoning scheme and management strategies will also allow for the continuation of commercial activities, such as rock lobster fishing, while reducing potential conflicts among users. The management plan also makes an important commitment to further pursue a sanctuary zone off Cape Peron and to include an area off Port Kennedy that originally had been excluded from the park for a potential marina development. The Cape Peron area contains near-shore reef habitat that warrants further consideration for protection. This process will require further consultation with the community. I thank those who were involved in the development of the plan, either through the draft plan, community meetings or workshops. The plan and the summary of public submissions report are available on DEC's website or from DEC offices at Wanneroo, Fremantle and Kensington.