

CONSERVATION ESTATE - ADDITIONS

**523. Mrs J. HUGHES to the Minister for the Environment:**

Will the minister advise the house of any recent additions made by the state government to our conservation estate?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I thank the member for her question. I can very proudly state that last Thursday I announced that we added to the Western Australian conservation estate some 2.7 million hectares. That is the single biggest addition to the conservation estate in the state's history, and it builds on the government's achievements in the environment portfolio. The additions to the conservation estate include 11 new conservation parks, 14 new nature reserves, additions to a national park in the north west, and additions to some key parks and reserves. This brings to a total of 20.1 million hectares, or eight per cent of the state's land area, that has been secured for the conservation estate.

**Dr S.C. Thomas** interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is interesting that I am interjected on by the member for Capel, because in his response to the announcement last week the member said that it was simply a name change. The Leader of the Opposition said in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, "Oh, no, it's not; it's an irresponsible land grab by the government." In other words, it is a land grab there and over here it is simply a name change. We know that if the Gallop government, and consequently the Carpenter government, had not been re-elected in 2005, the member for Capel would be at Ningaloo looking at Mauds Landing. We know that the Leader of the Opposition would be in the south west looking at the mowed areas where the great forests once stood. We know that if the member for Capel were the environment minister, he would be looking at the environmental conditions pertaining to uranium mines in Western Australia.

This government has in its term of office added 33 new national parks, saved Ningaloo Reef to ensure that the environmental values of that unique part of the state are protected, and ensured that our children and grandchildren will enjoy the great towering forests of the south west. We will continue to ensure that the biodiversity of this state of Western Australia is protected and that includes ensuring that the areas of land that are of high biodiversity value are protected for future generations. That is in stark contrast to what we could hope for if that lot opposite were in power. We will continue to ensure that we have balance in these economic boom times in which Western Australia is enjoying record low unemployment and is witnessing the creation of new jobs every day. In addition, we will ensure that the unique landscapes and marine environments will be protected into the future. It is a legacy that the previous Gallop government and now the Carpenter government will ensure continues into the future. I repeat it is in stark contrast to what we could expect if that lot opposite sat on the Treasury benches.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Unfortunately, the member for Capel's contribution was unparliamentary; therefore, he is called to order for the first time.