

KERALUP — RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Statement by Member for Mandurah

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.50 pm]: I rise today to call upon the Barnett government to bring an end to the uncertainty of the proposed residential development of the large land area known as Keralup, to the north east of Mandurah, kill the project once and for all and put aside the land for conservation purposes. The Keralup—formally Amarillo—proposal has been mooted for over two decades, but all the science and socioeconomic analysis of the proposed project shows it is dead in the water. The land was purchased in 1993 by the government but it is now very clear that it would be far too costly and would be an environmental nightmare if an attempt were made to develop it for residential use. In previous reports and comments, the Environmental Protection Authority has already expressed grave concern that the area could sustain a residential population and that the expected environmental challenges would be problematic with the scale of what is proposed. This project should be officially cancelled.

The area should be declared as land to be used for conservation purposes, and in my view the land area should be considered for inclusion in the proposed Peel regional park, as it has direct impact on the catchment for the Peel–Harvey system. The land area already attracts hundreds of birds, many of them rare, including migratory species, and the existing wetlands could be enhanced to provide ongoing safe haven for these birds into the future. The land also has the potential, if allowed to be regenerated and wetland areas protected, to become the Kings Park of the south, an area of conservation land and a buffer between the proposed Nambeelup industrial park to the south and the existing and proposed residential developments to the north and west. I call on the Premier to formally announce the cancellation of the Keralup residential proposal now and formally move to have the land area put aside for conservation purposes.