

SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [2.40 pm]: Prior to question time, I was speaking about how far some people have travelled on the issue of climate change and putting a price on carbon, and how far some people have not come on that issue. The resource industry and major emitters have come a long way in recognising that we need to deal with climate change and put a price on carbon. I think it is fair to say that the state Liberal Party has come some way on this issue compared with where it was 15 years ago. That resulted in its disastrous plan at the last election to shut down the town of Collie and basically turn the lights off in the whole of Western Australia. That was not a sensible plan. That goes back to what I said at the beginning of my contribution about how the job of a Labor minister who has the environment portfolio is to strike a balance between conserving our natural environment and ensuring that we have a sensible way forward on jobs and industry and preserving people's livelihoods, but also keeping the lights on. The Liberal Party made it clear at the last election that it cannot be trusted when it comes to energy policy and climate change.

The reason I raise these issues is that adapting to climate change and seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change is crucial to the future management of our Swan–Canning River system. Members may be aware that the Swan–Canning River system is subject to the *Swan Canning River protection strategy*. This is an instrument that the Swan and Canning River Management Act 2006 requires to be developed. The most recent version of that strategy was developed by the Barnett Liberal government. The word “climate” is mentioned only twice in that 44-page strategy about how to protect our most important natural asset in the metropolitan area. At a time when climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, it rated only two mentions across that whole report. I am pleased to say that if members go through the updates and progress reports on that strategy, they will notice that after the McGowan government was elected in 2017, “climate” suddenly appears much more often in that documentation. That is a reflection of the fact that this government takes very seriously the effect that a drying climate, and climate change generally, will have on our Swan–Canning River system. That is gratifying to see.

I now want to go back to some comments that I made earlier about the spate of dolphin deaths that occurred in the Swan River in late 2009 and early 2010. That eventually dragged the then Liberal government into doing something about that issue. The *Swan Canning River protection strategy* delivers funding for a variety of initiatives to monitor dolphin populations in the Swan River. That includes the Dolphin Watch program. This program encourages members of the public to be citizen scientists by helping to monitor and report injured, entangled or sick dolphins, and dolphin deaths, so that they can be recorded and investigated and we can get to the bottom of the cause of the problem and hopefully will not end up in the situation that we were in in the 2000s. Over the years, this government has also put additional funding into a range of programs to monitor water quality in the Swan and Canning Rivers. That is gratifying to see. We have also provided for the installation of oxygenation plants, which operate along a 14 or 15-kilometre section of the Swan River. Positive steps have been made by successive governments. However, as I have said, the former Liberal–National government had to be dragged kicking and screaming to do something about these issues, including climate change.

I conclude my comments by again thanking the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill to the house. As I have said, although this bill does not deal directly with improvements to or conservation of the Swan–Canning River system, it deals with the overarching regulatory environment. We can only successfully protect Perth's greatest natural asset, the Derbarl Yerrigan, if we get the regulatory framework right. We need to have a framework that is streamlined and simple for people to understand and measure so that stakeholders can be held accountable. This bill might be technical work, but it is very important work in protecting our Swan and Canning Rivers, and I commend it to the house.

MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman) [2.46 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak on the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. I always enjoy the contribution of the member for Cockburn, but I do not necessarily enjoy speaking after him. He sets an incredibly high bar with his considered contributions, so the inspiration has been set. Thanks for that!

As has been noted, this bill seeks to streamline the regulatory environment for businesses that operate on the Swan and Canning Rivers. This is good news for the small businesses that operate along the river in my electorate of Bateman. The major economic activity in my electorate is centred around small businesses. The Derbarl Yerrigan, or Swan River, and the Canning River, sit at the heart of my electorate and the lifestyles that we enjoy in Bateman. This is not necessarily a business that will benefit from this bill, but an example of the economic benefit that the river provides to my community is Kerbside Cafe at Mt Henry Bridge. That is a great little kiosk that serves people who enjoy the foreshore along the Derbarl Yerrigan, ride their bikes and bring their kids there. It is a striving little community. That is just one example of many of the riverside businesses in my electorate.

I now turn to the specifics of the businesses that will benefit from this bill. This bill will remove duplication by removing the need for businesses to have both a licence and a permit. A licence will be required only if it relates to an approved development. If that criterion is not met, businesses will be allowed to operate with just a permit. That is good news. It is part of a Streamline WA initiative to reduce red tape for businesses in the community.

Another reduction in duplication and red tape in the bureaucratic effort of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is the removal of the requirement for the Minister for Environment to conduct further consultation on changes to the Swan–Canning development control area where those changes relate to an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme.

[Interruption.]

Ms M.M. Quirk: Excuse me!

The SPEAKER: Bless you, member for Landsdale! Sorry for interrupting the member for Bateman’s speech!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: I have never heard a sneeze like that!

That will not mean the removal of consultation. Extensive consultation already takes place on proposed amendments to the metropolitan region scheme. This bill will remove the requirement to go through that consultation again, and thereby reduce duplication. I note that the community sometimes get confused about consultation. It is really important to conduct consultation. We know how important it is to talk to people who will be directly affected by any changes that are proposed. We also know that the community can get fatigued by ongoing and constant consultation. People often say to me about different levels of consultation, “But I’ve already contributed to that and given my feedback”, and, when I question them further, it was about something a bit different and they had not realised that they had to go through to another level. It is great news to be able to streamline the consultation to ensure that the public has the best opportunity to give its feedback in an effective way.

As was noted by my colleagues, including the member for Cockburn before me, it is impossible to talk about the Swan and Canning Rivers without talking about the environmental value. It is worth noting some facts about these river systems. The Swan River estuary is approximately 60 kilometres long. That is a significant stretch of our metropolitan area, obviously beginning at Fremantle and going all the way to Ellenbrook. The Canning River goes all the way up to Kent Street Weir. Many of my colleagues in this chamber are directly affected by this river, such as the members for Belmont and Victoria Park. The member for Cockburn was right when he said that although the river does not directly go through his community, the river system is extremely important to the Beelihar wetlands. It is an incredibly important part of our lifestyle that we all enjoy in Perth, and specifically for those who live directly on or near the river system.

I was pleased recently to take the Minister for Environment into my electorate and the electorate of my dear neighbour the member for Bicton, Lisa O’Malley. We had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with the Minister for Environment showcasing some of the work our local community is doing on our river foreshore to protect the environment. We began that visit on the foreshore along Tompkins Park with the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group. We had a fantastic visit looking at the work SERAG has been doing on the foreshore, and also the challenges it faces in managing the river system there. We were met by Margaret Matassa, who has an incredible amount of energy and passion for her local environment, and Robert Harvey and Rosemary Peek. We saw the rehabilitation that has been done on the foreshore there—a significant amount as they have spent literally thousands of hours removing weeds and reintroducing native species and, in that process, allowing the important samphire grasses to regrow and spread. That species is incredible at processing carbon dioxide; it is a brilliant carbon capturer and it has been under significant pressure along the area. Some people did not know the background of the Tompkins Park area in particular and that it was used as a refuse site. A lot of waste is buried under that foreshore area and it makes it very difficult to disturb the surface, but it also means that any leakages of what is buried under there must be managed.

The other challenge for that area is erosion, and we see this across our coastal and river systems. As climate change increases, there are changes to the depth of usage as the human population loves getting out on the water with boats and other marine activities, but that love of the environment comes with pressures. SERAG has done a significant amount of work to abate some of the erosion through those natural seagrasses and change the levels of the foreshore. The member for Bicton since her election in 2017 has been a long-time supporter and advocate of SERAG. We have worked together closely to continue that relationship and we will have a lot more to say about what is going on in that area as time goes on.

One of the significant challenges the river faces is pollution from plastics. The member for Cockburn spoke about dolphins, and a bunch of challenges exist around the dolphin population with boat strikes and pollution run-off, and one source of pollution is, of course, plastics. The McGowan government has introduced significant reforms to reduce the use of single-use plastics, because the first step is to completely remove that stream of waste from our community and its systems.

Bottle Top Hill is the initiative of Emma Charlton and sits in the electorate of Bicton but serves communities across the City of Melville. Bottle Top Hill operates once a month. To simplify it, it is where people can take their bottle

tops, because, of course, bottle tops cannot be recycled and cannot be put in the yellow bins. That is to simplify what is a full educational experience. Emma takes people on a journey. When they walk into Bottle Top Hill, they are not just dropping off their plastic waste into a bin and walking out; they are encouraged to walk through her setup. It has been extremely well thought through. There is a theme for each month. Under the directorship of Emma, volunteers educate the public on waste, how it is re-used and how it can be recycled—whether in fact it can be—and, importantly, on alternatives. An obvious alternative to plastic is glass, and that is easily recyclable. I congratulate Emma and Bottle Top Hill for that fantastic initiative in our community, and I thank the member for Bicton for sharing that with me and the Minister for Environment.

Another initiative that is worth noting for the beautiful foreshore of my electorate—again, it is shared with the member for Bicton—is the Attadale–Alfred Cove foreshore. That includes Tompkins Park and heads around towards Troy Park in the Bicton electorate. The City of Melville recently engaged in extensive consultation with the community to come up with a plan. That area is under significant pressure from population use through the things that we love to use our foreshore for, such as sports. A great number of local community clubs use the area, such as soccer and rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer, and people ride their bikes or walk their dogs. It is a beautiful part of our city. However, these activities bring pressures and we need to balance those competing uses among the community. The City of Melville’s engagement with the community and key stakeholders led to the *Attadale Alfred Cove foreshore master plan*. The key factor to come out of that was the community’s value of this space and the environmental and cultural heritage of our river system—that is, the Swan River and further around as it connects to the Canning River. My community, and the member for Bicton’s community, places an extremely high value on that river system. That river system supports international migratory birds. Australia is a signatory to international conventions on migratory birds. It is an extremely important habitat area and is very vulnerable to being disturbed. If those birds are disrupted from feeding, that may interrupt their ability to return successfully on their long journeys. People love to birdwatch, and there is plenty to see there, but one of the solutions of the minister—I mean, the member for Bicton; I have given her a promotion!

Mrs L.M. O’Malley: I’ve never been referred to so much since I’ve been in this place. Please continue!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: It is important to acknowledge the work the member did because this work was done before my election in 2021 and it is great to now have a partner and for us to be able to work together to continue that. The work the member for Bicton has done from 2017 onwards needs to be acknowledged. One of the solutions the member and her community came up with was to fund a bird viewing platform so that people could get out their binoculars and books and take their kids there and share in the joy of their local environment, and do so without disturbing the birds. I believe the member for Bicton is getting ready to open that officially with the Minister for Environment next week, and I cannot wait to be there as well. I will enjoy being there. That has to be acknowledged, because these are local solutions to problems that are faced everywhere across metropolitan Perth. It is great to see the member come up with a solution that will have such a great impact. I know that Tom and Jenny Lubin and the Friends of the Melville Bird Sanctuary absolutely love the work that the member has been doing for them, so that definitely deserves acknowledgement.

Mrs L.M. O’Malley: And, member, you have been doing a phenomenal amount of work. It is another example of the McGowan government teamwork!

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Thank you; I will take the interjection from the member for Bicton.

Mrs L.M. O’Malley: Ignore the member behind me!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: I will have Hansard record the interjection!

The other work that is really important is the foreshore work, the rehabilitation work done by the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group and the work of the Friends of the Melville Bird Sanctuary. There is also the quality of the water in our river system. The member for Cockburn mentioned the run-off from both agricultural and residential pollution in our water system. Pop quiz: what is one marine animal that we know can really have a positive impact on water quality?

Mrs L.M. O’Malley: I know this one!

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Member for Bicton? Minister for Environment?

Mr R.R. Whitby: Mussels.

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: Mussels; thank you very much. Mussels are fantastic water filters. That brings me, surprisingly, to another amazing commitment that has been delivered by the McGowan government and led by the member for Bicton—that is, the \$2 million investment in a reef system to support the reintroduction of blue mussels and to support the habitat in the Swan River. The construction of the reef at the Point Walter site has been completed and millions of baby mussels are being released. The second site, which is in Attadale, is currently under construction. These are trial sites. I have every confidence that they will be successful; the science behind them is very strong.

I look forward to seeing other initiatives like these rolled out across the Swan and Canning Rivers and seeing that success breed further success. It is another wonderful example.

Over \$13 million has been spent by the McGowan government on similar projects across our coastal and river systems since 2020. Certainly, my electorate has been a significant beneficiary of that, as has the member for Bicton's electorate. It is crucial that we preserve the river system for the economic prosperity of our state, because then small businesses can prosper and people can get out and enjoy the environment, and connect and make money as they do that. It is also about the cultural and environmental value. Of course, it would be remiss of me to talk about cultural values without acknowledging the Whadjuk people, whose connection to the river system was integral to their food sources and to the story lines and the songlines. When I was first elected, I really enjoyed meeting and talking to local elders, and I still do; everywhere I go, if I have the opportunity to speak to a local elder about the Aboriginal heritage of the electorate of Bateman, I take that opportunity, and I learn something every single time.

I do not want to introduce any controversy into the debate, but I know an elder who does not believe that Goolugatup Heathcote should be called Goolugatup. He believes that there is a different name, and that name stems from the way that the Heathcote ridge line looks like little frogs. I am not going to get into that debate; it is not my place to do that. It is really interesting to have these stories unfold and to learn about the connection to place. As the member for Cockburn rightly said, the connection between the river and the wetlands systems was extremely strong. I have a fantastic piece of artwork by an Indigenous artist on the wall in my electorate office that shows the river system connected to the wetlands system around it. The river system is not a system in isolation; it is deeply connected.

I would like to end my contribution by saying thank you to the minister for streamlining the process and making it less bureaucratic for businesses to operate in this area. I know he shares the environmental values as well. Congratulations.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment) [3.04 pm] — in reply: I rise to conclude the debate on the second reading of the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. It has been a wonderful couple of days listening to the contributions from all around the chamber. Many members have had the opportunity to reminisce. Who knew that a piece of legislation designed to streamline bureaucratic processes and make it easier for operators to do business on the Swan and Canning Rivers would unlock such a treasure trove of romantic and nostalgic stories about the Swan River? It has been heartening to hear such personal and deep-felt emotions about the Swan and Canning Rivers and the river system. That is why it is so important that we make it easier for operators to exist on the Swan and Canning Rivers and for members of the public to have access to experiences on the river system, because there is that deep connection. In a way, the stories were not superfluous. They were very much in the spirit of this legislation. This legislation is about creating easier access and enabling greater involvement by businesses and tourism ventures and similar operators on the Swan River and to deal with the approvals process in a much simpler way and to regulate them in a very simple and efficient way, which is an improvement on what we have at the moment.

I acknowledge the contributions of all members. I thought there were such gold nuggets in the contributions that it bears repeating and acknowledging some of the contributions we heard today.

We began with the member for Bicton, who spoke about the value of the Swan River to her electorate. We know that Bicton has a very rich history. We can think about the Bicton baths and the connections for the local community with that part of the river. She spoke about the nature conservancy effort on the mussels, which is a giant filtering system for the Swan River to remove nutrients and improve the quality of the water. We note that in recent years, the quality of the Swan River has improved, but we are only a season away from adverse conditions that are beyond our control; we could have algae outbreaks and issues that affect the Swan. We want to see those mussels back in the river not only for the benefit they provide in filtering the water, but also because they add to the habitat and the food chains for fish species in the river.

The member for Nedlands spoke about the sporting clubs, the Perth Frontrunners and the important work that the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group is doing at Pelican Point in Nedlands.

We know that the member for Thornlie is a passionate conservationist and he described at great length the dangers and issues of fishing line abandoned in the river and how it entangles birds and other marine creatures such as dolphins. He gave us some tips on how to wrangle a swan. He said that they hiss and get very defensive, but there is a certain master stroke that can be applied to make their neck fall limp to deal with the issue of any entanglement. It was very enlightening.

The member for Willagee made a wonderful Tim Winton-esque contribution about his childhood of growing up on the Swan, with his deep personal connections and how the river was a rite of passage for young men in the Fremantle area. He indulged in some activities that were wholesome and others that were not so wholesome. He learnt to swim at the Bicton baths. Again, he was not the first person to bring up memories of prawning in the Swan River. It was a great contribution.

The member for Swan Hills spoke about the western swamp tortoise, which was once thought to be extinct, and about relying on the sustainability of our wetlands and the important conservation work that is going on with that species.

The member for South Perth talked about the important history and culture of the Swan River, not just the Indigenous culture that we are very well aware of, but even the Chinese market gardeners of South Perth. He spoke about the need to preserve the quality of the Swan River for the fauna and flora that it supports to this day.

He made some very unkind comparisons between our gleaming Derbarl Yerrigan and the Torrens and Yarra, and if this debate is reported interstate, they may create a bit of controversy.

The member for Moore made an important contribution, and I will come back to the issues he raised in a moment because he went into some specifics that I want to address in detail.

The member for Churchlands talked about the wonderful days of growing up and having nuns take her to the river to learn to swim. A bit like the member for Thornlie, she became very skilled in untangling fishing lines—maybe not from around creatures but certainly from around her son’s fishing tackle boxes. She learnt many lessons and she spoke about the significance of the river. Although the Churchlands electorate does not share a boundary with the river, it shares integral systems with the Swan River.

The member for Riverton talked about the social aspect of the river and how it helps bring the community together. It is a focal point for exercise and picnics, and I think we have all experienced that.

The member for Burns Beach was very interesting this morning. He described his underprivileged childhood as a student at Aquinas and Christchurch. He talked about the struggle of getting to school every day on a foam surfboard that was hidden in the reeds. That was after he left home, which was a shoebox, on the way to Aquinas. He also reminded us all about the horror and terror of stepping on a cobbler. This is something I grew up with as a kid. I went prawning and crabbing on the river a couple of times with my parents, and I remember my dad and my uncle talking about the cutting, fiery pain of stepping on a cobbler, so I lived in terror of putting my foot in the wrong place. I am grateful to say that I do not think I was ever stung by a cobbler, but I was fearful of doing so for most of my childhood.

The member for Mount Lawley, one of the learned members in the chamber, was very eloquent. He said the case for this legislation is that it encourages river use and access, which also encourages protection of the river. It is a very pertinent point: the more a community is given access to enjoy a natural environment, the more likely the community is to care about it and want to see it protected. We adopt this philosophy in our national parks and in our marine national parks, and it is important for our river as well. If people are allowed to enjoy it and appreciate it, they recognise the value of its natural environment and natural state, and want to do more to protect it.

The member for Cockburn rightly acknowledged the role of our advisers and agency officers, who really do the heavy lifting. We get up and spruik our passions, but the actual heavy lifting of any legislation is done by the advisers who are here to assist us when required. For the last two days, they have been ready to talk about detail, but they have been regaled with wonderful stories of nostalgia and romance. I do not think it has been too tough on them, but they are ready to assist at a moment’s notice.

The member for Bateman wrapped up debate brilliantly this afternoon. She talked about the practical sense for small businesses in her electorate. Small businesses and other operators will get a real benefit from the streamlining of regulations and the legislative changes that we have spoken about. She also spoke about her electorate’s magnificent environment. She is on the border of Bicton, and both electorates have migratory birds and important habitat. It has been wonderful to sit here and listen to these stories.

I want to get to some of the legislation’s detail and the detailed response to the point the member for Moore raised. From the outset, I point out that the member for Moore was gracious in pointing out that he supported the legislation. He had some issues he wanted to raise, and I will get to those, but he indicated the opposition’s support for the legislation. He also shares some of the romance and spirit of the river systems and knows how important they are. The river is an icon of Western Australia. I thank all members.

It has been pointed out many times that this legislation is the result of our Streamline WA initiatives. At their core, these initiatives are intended to make life easier and make it easier for businesses to do business by improving regulation and regulatory practice. The bill will clarify the licensing arrangements in the act so it will be clear that commercial businesses operating on the Swan and Canning Rivers and adjacent lands will need only a permit. At present, these operators are issued a combined permit and licence due to a lack of clarity in the act.

This is an important point made by many people: the rigorous assessment process and responsibilities undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will not be diminished by these amendments; in fact, removing the duplicative processes will mean that departmental resources and staff time can be better redirected to protecting and enhancing the ecology, community benefits and amenity of the river. Less duplication will mean less process and more time to do important things like protecting the river.

The amendments and the transitional agreements will recognise the validity of existing combined licences and permits, which will be transitioned as permits. Furthermore, the amendment bill will put in place transitional arrangements to ensure that the holders of two specific contractual licences relating to the operation of Swan River Seaplanes and the Matagarup Bridge zipline will continue to operate under their existing licences.

There has been extensive consultation for what is a relatively simple piece of legislation with the relevant schedule 5 authorities—that is, the state government agencies that have an interest in the management of the Swan and Canning Rivers—and schedule 7 local government bodies. Letters were sent to holders of all existing commercial operator combined licences and permits; they were made aware of this change and offered the opportunity to comment. Holders of the Swan River Seaplanes licence and the Matagarup Bridge zipline licence were also sent letters. The State Administrative Tribunal; the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and, importantly, the Swan River Trust were also consulted and supported the amendments. I am pleased to say that no concerns regarding the bill were raised by these stakeholders during the consultation process.

The member for Moore raised three specific queries during his second reading contribution. They are important, and I want to go through their detail. The member asked about the practical changes the proposed amendment to section 13 will deliver for individuals who are interested in a proposed amendment to the development control area or Swan and Canning Riverpark land, and whether it will affect or make a difference to the appeal process. In response, I advise that this amendment will streamline consultation processes that apply to the making of regulations to amend the development control area or Swan Canning Riverpark. For the most part, the boundaries of the development control area and riverpark reflect the parks and recreation waterways reservations under the metropolitan region scheme. The amendment bill will remove the requirement for the Minister for Environment to conduct further consultation on regulations to change the development control area or the riverpark when that change relates to a metropolitan region scheme amendment that has already been approved under the Planning and Development Act and has been subject to either public consultation or the amendment is made by an act.

In the past, when an amendment was proposed to the development control area or Swan Canning Riverpark land, DBCA wrote to the relevant landowners to explain the proposed amendment, and this practice will continue. Important stakeholders are informed of the government's intentions and can provide feedback. The practical change will be that the Minister for Environment will not consult a range of other ministers, local governments or public authorities to change the development control area or the riverpark when that change is related to a metropolitan region scheme amendment that has ready been approved and subject to consultation with those same ministers and organisations.

In other words, the intent of this change is that it will avoid a double up—a duplication of process—but it will not, in any way, change the opportunity for members of the public to have a say in the process. Although there are no formal appeal processes for individuals under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act, landowners and other stakeholders can write to or approach the Minister for Environment with their concerns about this and the minister can choose to consult ministers and other organisations listed in section 13(2). That part retains an ability for people to reach out and make comment, but they already had that ability under the Planning and Development Act.

Regarding the member's question about transferability of licence agreements, I can advise that proposed section 32(6) provides that licence agreements can be transferred with the approval of the CEO. This will enable the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to undertake an assessment prior to any transfer. It is not appropriate for a licence agreement to be transferred without the CEO's prior approval. Generally, in the case of commercial businesses operating on the Swan River, a licence agreement is likely to be held by a body corporate, and in the circumstances that a director of a company passes away, the company would continue to hold the licence agreement. There will be no limitation on the transfer of licence agreements to family members, subject, again, to the approval of the CEO. However, it is important to note that licence agreements cannot be inherited. They could be transferred with approval of the CEO.

The eagle-eyed member for Moore spotted a clerical error that our writers of this legislation and others did not—full marks to the member—which will be fixed by changing the word “licence” to “lease” in the heading. Under the Interpretation Act 1984, headings to sections are not part of the act, so parliamentary counsel can correct this minor error in the published version of the act. I thank the member for that. Bringing up issues is part of the process of debate. Sometimes substantive issues need to be corrected, but in this case it was a relatively simple but important matter, and I appreciate the fact that the member for Moore has an eagle eye.

In summary, this amendment bill will introduce important regulatory reforms that will support operating on the Swan and Canning Rivers. It will support jobs in tourism and local hospitality sectors by streamlining approvals and providing clarity on regulatory processes. It will do this in such a way that the Swan and Canning Rivers are not placed at risk. The resulting reform will enable DBCA to focus regulatory effort on protecting the outstanding

values of the Swan and Canning Rivers, which are so important to the people of Perth and Western Australia, as we found out, in a large sense, over the last couple of days.

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

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Minister for Environment)**, and transmitted to the Council.