

**WESTERN GROUND PARROT**

*Statement by Member for Roe*

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.54 pm]: A special project is underway in my electorate to preserve Western Australia's rarest bird. The critically endangered western ground parrot, known as kyloring, is a ground-dwelling parrot, once known to exist from the east coast of Esperance through to Cape Leeuwin and north to Dongara. There are now fewer than 140 western ground parrots in the remote Cape Arid National Park near Esperance. Their numbers have been significantly reduced by clearing, foxes, cats and bushfires.

Last year, a task force of conservation professionals and volunteers attempted a capture-and-release project to save the parrot population. The project, which was more than five years in the making, involved the Friends of the Western Ground Parrot; BirdLife Western Australia; Perth Zoo; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; South Coast Natural Resource Management; and other skilled volunteers. It was supported by donations and state and federal funding. In April 2021, seven birds were moved 600 kilometres to a secret location west of Esperance. This was the first attempt of a wild-to-wild relocation of western ground parrots. Incredibly, the birds survived 12 months, prompting a second relocation attempt in July 2022. The monitoring, site management and capture of the birds was headed by DBCA ecologist Sarah Comer and supported by Perth Zoo.

I commend all those involved in the fight to save the western ground parrot. I also acknowledge the work of Riggs Australia, Esperance-based filmmakers and wildlife documentary makers, in raising awareness through film of the plight of the western ground parrot.