

BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS —
LEEWIN–NATURALISTE NATIONAL PARK

1198. Hon LOUISE KINGSTON to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the six-point plan titled “A Recovery Plan for Boranup Forest & the Leeuwin Naturaliste National Park” signed by eight major local industry groups and authorities, including the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River, following the level 3 Calgardup fire.

- (1) Has the Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions given consideration to the six-point plan?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) Will the state government provide additional funding to manage the impact of increased visitation or appropriate management and maintenance of the natural assets in the park?

Hon DARREN WEST replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question. I take the opportunity to congratulate the member on her election to the Legislative Council. On behalf of the Minister for Environment, I provide the following answer.

- (1)–(3) The state government recognises the importance of Leeuwin–Naturaliste National Park as the most visited national park in Western Australia, and will continue to support and enhance tourism offerings in our national parks. In May 2023, the state government announced \$2 million to support upgrades to the Cape to Cape Track in Leeuwin–Naturaliste National Park. These upgrades will include improvements to the track surface, infrastructure upgrades, trail realignments to protect culturally sensitive sites and erosion management, which will enhance the experience for visitors and locals. A further \$700 000 will be spent on visitor signage in the park. The state government acknowledges the strong advocacy of the member for Warren–Blackwood on this matter. To address the impact of increased visitation and protect natural and cultural assets in the park, a further \$550 000 is being spent on upgrading and expanding the Rabbit Hill recreation site in Yallingup to provide additional parking spaces, replace a lookout and eventually improve beach access.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions continues to implement a range of bushfire mitigation measures in Leeuwin–Naturaliste National Park, including utilising the lower fuel loads resulting from the 2021 Calgardup bushfire to reintroduce prescribed burning under mild conditions. Additional conservation works being progressed within the Calgardup bushfire area include weed management and baiting for pest animals. The identification of priorities for future reserve joint management within the Karri Karrak region will be progressed with the soon-to-be-established cooperative management committee under the south west native title settlement.