

ROCKINGHAM LAKES REGIONAL PARK — CAPE PERON A-CLASS RESERVE

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment) [9.15 am]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook Labor government has delivered on its commitment to protect 120 hectares of Cape Peron at Rockingham Lakes Regional Park through the creation of a new A-class reserve. I recently had the opportunity to join the member for Rockingham, who is in the chamber with us today, and parks and wildlife staff at Cape Peron to mark the official registration of the new park tenure. Cape Peron is well known for its protected beaches, limestone cliffs and panoramic views. It is well loved and highly valued by the community as a coastal park in an urban setting with significant environmental and heritage values. It supports a range of recreational activities with a network of scenic coastal pathways and nature viewing opportunities and is home to several clubs and community uses. The coastal area is also popular for fishing and snorkelling, and attracts more than 600 000 visits per annum. The member for Rockingham is often one of those visitors; she loves to recreate on Cape Peron when she has the time, as do other people in Rockingham.

The *Perth and Peel* 3.5 million land use planning and infrastructure frameworks identified 15 areas that required further detailed planning to determine whether any change to current land use or zonings was appropriate. A working group of stakeholders, supported by a community reference group, was established to determine the future use of Cape Peron. The working group made nine recommendations for Cape Peron, which were informed by extensive consultation. The four main concerns were protecting and enhancing environmental values, including creating an A-class reserve; better public access with improved amenities and facilities; recognition of Aboriginal and historic heritage and providing greater certainty about land tenure and land uses.

Much of the new A-class reserve directly adjoins Shoalwater Islands Marine Park, which allows integrated and seamless management of the marine and terrestrial protected areas. Additional areas may be added following future land use planning by government agencies and the City of Rockingham. The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will continue to manage the A-class reserve with consideration for the higher levels of protection that it is now afforded. I thank the former and current Ministers for Lands and Planning for their collaboration in securing this very important outcome for Rockingham and the region.