

**PURNULULU AND MIRIMA NATIONAL PARKS**

*Statement by Minister for Environment*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment)** [12.45 pm]: Today I would like to inform the house of the opening of a new visitor centre within Purnululu National Park in the East Kimberley and of the new trail opening in Mirima National Park. Purnululu National Park is a 240 000-hectare World Heritage site, known for its unique beehive rock formations that many of us know as the Bungle Bungles. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Purnululu National Park as a World Heritage listed site for its outstanding universal heritage values and natural beauty.

I had the privilege of joining the member for Kimberley at the opening of the new Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions visitor centre on 27 April along with representatives of the traditional owners of the land, the Jaru and Gija people. The new visitor centre has been designed to fit in with the unique, natural surroundings of Purnululu National Park and will educate visitors about the Jaru and Gija Aboriginal cultural heritage values. The total cost of the new visitor centre was \$1.924 million. This is a great example of the state and federal governments coming together to support our regions' economic recovery from COVID-19. The visitor centre is an important facility for tourists, providing information about the park's natural, cultural and geological features through interpretation material and augmented reality applications. Purnululu National Park and the visitor centre were formally opened to the public on 1 May 2023 for the start of the Kimberley tourist season.

Mirima National Park is home to spectacular natural rock formations. It is popular for bushwalking, photography and exploring nature at its best. The new \$150 000 walking trail at Mirima National Park was named Yoornging Geranyem Banan, meaning "painting on rocks", which represents the strong ties that the traditional owners, the Miriuwung people, have had with the area for many thousands of years. The trail will provide domestic and international tourists a unique look into the surreal wilderness of northern Western Australia. I encourage people to visit this magnificent part of Western Australia and commend the member for Kimberley on her strident advocacy for these worthy projects.