

**SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS — MANAGEMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Environment*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment)** [9.07 am]: Today I would like to update the house on the streamlining of tourism and commercial approvals for the Swan and Canning Rivers. In February, the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022 was passed by the Legislative Council, and on 1 March, it received royal assent from the Governor.

The amendments to the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006 and the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Regulations 2007 introduce regulatory reforms under the government's Streamline WA initiative. Approval processes will be streamlined for more than 60 tourism and commercial operators, with only one type of approval now required. These changes will benefit a wide variety of operators, from large charter vessel and ferry operators to smaller aquatic-based activities, including stand-up paddleboarding and kayak hire and tours. Most of these businesses will now be regulated via a permit only, with the need for a licence removed. The amendments also remove a duplicative requirement for consultation that existed for making changes to the Swan Canning development control area and the Swan Canning Riverpark.

The protection and good management of the Swan Canning Riverpark are very important to the people of Perth and Western Australia. The rivers are known for their outstanding natural beauty as well as their cultural significance and tourism uses. I welcome the changes that have been made to the act and its regulations, as they support local jobs in the tourism sector by streamlining approvals and providing clarity on regulatory processes. These changes clarify the arrangements that apply to people who operate tourism and other commercial businesses on the rivers, while ensuring that the rivers are protected and not placed at risk.