

**RESERVES BILL 2023**

*Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.N. Carey (Minister for Lands)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [12.44 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to introduce the Reserves Bill 2023 to the house. The Reserves Bill 2023 seeks Parliament's approval to implement amendments to six class A reserves and a conservation park. The amendments proposed in the bill are needed to fulfil key government policy commitments in the creation of Helena and Aurora Ranges national park, to facilitate the completion of the Catalina Estate development within the City of Wanneroo and to address several historical operational inconsistencies in land use and management.

The bill is important in establishing the Helena and Aurora Ranges national park, which is located approximately 440 kilometres east of Perth in the goldfields region. The ranges contain rich biodiversity and landscape values, housing the largest remaining intact Mediterranean-climate woodland left on earth, and is home to the 2.5 billion-year-old banded iron formations. The protection of the Helena and Aurora Ranges is a strategic priority under the government's Plan for Our Parks, which aims to add five million hectares to the state's conservation estate. The ranges are also significant to the culture and heritage of the Marlinyu Ghoorlie native title claimants, and it is intended that the national park will be jointly managed by them in conjunction with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Central to the creation of the Helena and Aurora Ranges national park is strengthening the protection currently afforded to Mount Manning Conservation Park. This will be achieved by elevating Mt Manning to a class A national park, which will add approximately 140 000 hectares to the existing area of national park announced in February 2021. The amendment to Mt Manning is being progressed in parallel with the negotiation of an Indigenous land use agreement.

The remaining priority in this bill is to finalise a longstanding agreement to amend the metropolitan region scheme to excise just over 10 hectares from Neerabup National Park. This will allow for the land to be transferred to the Catalina Regional Council, formerly the Tamala Park Regional Council, to urgently progress the residential development Catalina Estate in the City of Wanneroo, contributing to housing delivery in this region.

The bill also seeks to amend five other class A reserves, which will allow for the transfer of land in the City of Greater Geraldton to the Bundi Yamatji Aboriginal Corporation under the terms of the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement; finalise a longstanding proposal from the current and past forest management plans to upgrade part of Lane Poole Reserve to a national park; formalise management responsibilities for the part of the Mandurah railway overlapping Leda Nature Reserve in the City of Kwinana; formalise management responsibilities for part of the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline service corridor overlapping a nature reserve in the Shire of Harvey; and provide certainty for a waste management facility servicing the Mt Barker community.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms M. Beard**.