

NATIONAL PARKS — DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

39. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the article in *The West Australian* of 10 May 2017, entitled “Open national parks to tourism”, in which the minister reportedly said that he wanted to encourage more people to use Western Australia’s conservation estate, rather than lock it up for the sake of it. Does the minister intend to consider development proposals from the private sector that will encourage more people to use our world-class national parks?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

I thank the honourable member for the question. It is great that he was paying attention to my comments in the media. Yes, I did say in an interview with *The West Australian* that I do and would welcome people using national parks in Western Australia. In fact, I had a conversation outside this afternoon with an honourable member of this place about the very same issue. I do not think there is any reason to simply lock up national parks for the sake of it. I want to see our national parks used by the community. For that reason, I made those comments. At this stage, there are no development proposals. Obviously, any proposal would need to go through proper processes. I really want to see Western Australians use our parks, and I want to see us protect our unique environment for future generations.