

WARLIBIRRI NATIONAL PARK

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [2.44 pm]: Today I would like to inform the house of the creation of Warlibirri National Park, which I announced on country with the Gooniyandi people and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs on 27 April this year. I would like to thank the Gooniyandi Aboriginal Corporation and traditional owners for welcoming us on their country and hosting such a fantastic event. The park creation is part of the McGowan government's Plan for Our Parks initiative to create five million hectares in five years of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves.

Warlibirri National Park spans close to 16 000 hectares and covers areas of the Margaret River east of Fitzroy Crossing on Gooniyandi country. Warlibirri National Park is WA's 109th national park and the ninth national park created by this McGowan government. Traditional owners were central to the creation of this national park and the area was co-designed with them. This collaboration and consultation with traditional owners will enable strong joint management partnerships that will benefit the environment and culture, as well as fostering jobs linked to the creation of these parks. This national park is the first step in the establishment of a series of national parks in the Fitzroy Valley that will start at the banks of Dangu National Park at Geikie Gorge and head east along the Margaret River and north along the Fitzroy River. Plan for Our Parks is continuing to deliver new conservation reserves across our state to protect its unique biodiversity and cultural values, and create on-country jobs for Aboriginal people.