

ENVIRONMENT ONLINE

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [12.19 pm]: I also bring the attention of the house to the launch yesterday of the first release of the Environment Online platform. Environment Online is the Western Australian government's new platform for water and environmental regulation, delivering on the government's one-stop shop and streamlining objectives. This secure digital platform will provide a single gateway for regulatory activities, automated case management and an integrated data management system. Release 1 of Environment Online delivers information and services to support environmental impact assessment activities under part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Release 1 also delivers the foundational platform that will be built on in future releases and that allows for integration with a wide range of information, geospatial, financial and identity management systems.

As a complex and transformational business system, the launch of Environment Online is the culmination of several years of hard work in development and testing. It is also the start of an exciting journey. Environment Online has been designed to be iterative and evolving. There will be regular updates and future releases to deliver more functionality and services as well as improvements based on stakeholder feedback. Release 1 has recently undergone testing with stakeholders. We are grateful to our stakeholders for taking the time to provide comments on the earlier iteration and we look forward to their ongoing involvement and feedback to help shape the future of Environment Online. In particular, I would like to recognise the contributions of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and the Environmental Consultants Association of WA. We recognise that no system is perfect when it is first launched and a dedicated Environment Online team within the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is ready to receive and quickly action feedback to improve the system.

Stakeholders are encouraged to jump in now and start using Environment Online in order to benefit from the range of features we have built into Environment Online, as well as provide early feedback and suggestions for improvements. Comprehensive support is available to assist stakeholders using Environment Online, including a detailed user guide, interactive online sessions, guidance materials as well as the support team. We are committed to continuing to work with all our stakeholders to ensure that Environment Online meets all of our evolving needs.