

CANNING RIVER — FEDERAL LABOR COMMITMENT

Statement by Member for Thornlie

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.50 pm]: Rivers are the focus of our catchments—they are the visual, recreational and aesthetic centrepiece. For too long, they have been neglected, forgotten and abused. The Canning River, the heart of my Thornlie electorate, is no exception. Over recent years, there have been some tremendous programs run by local groups, such as the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare and the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group, but too much of the river is degraded by choking weeds, eroded riverbanks and litter, including shopping trolleys. We want people to walk, run, cycle, skate and enjoy being near the Canning River.

The shadow federal Minister for Environment and Water, Tony Burke, is onto an absolute winner with the urban rivers program. If successful on Saturday, a Shorten federal Labor government will provide \$2 million to the Canning River. This is a fantastic commitment. I have to say that I am amazed the Liberal–National coalition has not made a similar commitment. People in the federal electorates of Swan, Hasluck, Burt and Canning will benefit from the investment in our Canning River. George Seddon’s seminal book from 1972, *Sense of Place: A Response to an Environment: the Swan Coastal Plain, Western Australia*, hit the mark—no matter what your heritage, to enjoy living somewhere, it is essential to have an understanding of the biogeographic heritage of an area. Federal Labor’s 2019 election commitment to the Canning River will help many people better connect with and enjoy a natural feature that is unique and precious to our area. I want to acknowledge the work of Pat Hart, chair of SERCUL; Amy Krupa, CEO of SERCUL; and John and Sally Nicholas, who have been custodians of the river for many years in Kenwick. Thank you, federal Labor, for making this \$2 million commitment.