

MARINE PARKS — GAZETTAL

**553. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to the statement made in this house on 30 June 2010 by the Minister for Environment when she said —

Before any marine park can be gazetted, the concurrence of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; and Fisheries is required ...

Is it the Minister for Mines and Petroleum who is holding up the long-awaited and much-anticipated marine parks at Camden Sound, the capes and the Dampier Archipelago?

**Hon NORMAN MOORE replied:**

Is that a joke or a question?

**Hon Sally Talbot:** You might think it is a joke!

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** The history of these marine parks under the previous government is legendary—it just went on and on; it did not make any decisions. I do not know whether it created any at all.

However, in respect to the ones the honourable member mentioned, I have been extraordinarily cooperative in my discussions with the Minister for Environment. As members know, under the legislation the Minister for Mines and Petroleum has to concur with the Minister for Environment in the creation of any marine park. The government has been working very hard to come up with the right balance in respect to the marine parks that will be created. Members are aware we have made an in-principle decision in respect to the Camden Sound Marine Park. Members will see the detail of that in due course.

**Hon Sally Talbot:** It is overdue, on your timetable.

**Hon NORMAN MOORE:** With respect, I think it is progressing quicker than normal when it comes to marine parks. If the member spent a bit of time contemplating what happened in her day, she will find it took years and years. What about the cape to cape and Dampier Archipelago marine parks? Under the former parliamentary secretary's jurisdiction, they were never completed. The processes are long and time consuming. There are a range of agencies that need to be involved. I think the member will find that when the Camden Sound decision is made it will be a record in terms of the minimum amount of time taken to come forward with a marine park. Obviously, as the legislation provides, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum has some involvement because it is important for the Minister for Mines and Petroleum to look after the interests of offshore petroleum. If there are conflicts between a marine park and offshore petroleum interests, it is necessary to get the right balance. Similarly, in respect to fishing—a lot of people go fishing. If sanctuary zones are created, for example, we can in fact prohibit fishing. It is important to make sure we do not take out of the fishing industry the capacity to do its job but at the same time recognise there are some environmental issues that need to be addressed through a marine park or through a sanctuary zone.

Nobody is standing in the road of anything. In fact I am delighted with the cooperation that I am receiving through the whole process of determining these marine parks. I think the member will be pleasantly surprised when they are made public.