

*Mandurah Bushland Protection Strategy — Adjournment Debate*

**HON SALLY TALBOT (South West)** [5.21 pm]: In Mandurah recently we celebrated the acquisition of a second parcel of land under the Mandurah city council's bushland protection strategy. I rise tonight to pay tribute to the people who have been the movers and shakers in pushing this program along and to inform honourable members about some of the details of this really magnificent program. The bushland protection strategy was put in place in 2003, after the city council looked at what was happening to Mandurah, which, as honourable members know, has been one of the fastest growing regional cities in Australia. Even now, with growth slowing significantly in the past couple of years, we are still looking at a current five-year growth average of 4.4 per cent a year. The council looked at what happens to communities like Mandurah when they grow so rapidly, and one of the conclusions was that it is a major problem when large parcels of privately owned land are cleared for development. That is clearly not what the community in Mandurah wants, so the City of Mandurah went on the front foot to give a concrete response to the community's concerns about disappearing bushland, and formulated its bushland protection strategy.

The first parcel of land acquired was very significant. In January 2006 the City of Mandurah announced the purchase of a 24-hectare bushland parcel, which turned out to be adjacent to the 25-hectare Marlee Reserve Parklands. This was a very much celebrated event in Mandurah, heralding the historic commencement of this very bold plan to create a natural bushland network that would be in perpetual community care. The ultimate objective of the council is to move to a goal of protecting 150 hectares of privately owned bushland that would otherwise be developed. A couple of weeks ago we got together to celebrate the acquisition of the second parcel of bushland. Like the 24 hectares next to the Marlee reserve, this second area is also a habitat of the threatened Carnaby's black cockatoo. It is in Gumnut Avenue, Dawesville. If honourable members happen to be passing, it is just off the Old Mandurah Road, and is well worth having a look at. The city managed to negotiate for the existing bushland public open space of Gumnut Avenue to be increased from 1.5 hectares to 2.3 hectares. It sounds like only a small amount in the context of the ultimate objective of 150 hectares under this program, but it is nevertheless a very significant development.

I pay tribute to the city for having worked in such a cooperative fashion with the state government, developers and local environment groups. A significant aspect of the city being able to acquire the second parcel of bushland was its negotiations with the Public Transport Authority as part of the mitigation for the southern suburbs railway. The city was successful in getting funding that would match its contribution for the site in Gumnut Avenue. The city also successfully negotiated with the developer, Heath Development Company, that ceded land to establish the greenbelt corridor on the adjacent reserve that backs onto Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary. It is a very special piece of bushland. Not only will the local community value having that as part of their immediate environment, but also it will attract people from all over the area. The bushland is on top of a hill from which there is a magnificent view, and it is a natural habitat for several endangered species, including Carnaby's black cockatoo.

I pay tribute to the City of Mandurah for embarking on the program and effectively putting two significant concrete projects into the program at its launch. I want to particularly mention the efforts of the mayor, Paddi Creevey, who has been an absolutely single-minded protector of the environmental values in the entire Peel region, not only since she has been mayor or on council, but also in all the time she has spent in the Peel region. It is one of the many magnificent contributions that Paddi has made to the local community.

I also pay tribute to the members of the Peel Preservation Group. Its activities are well known to members of both houses of this Parliament. Every member of Parliament who represents that area has spent time in their respective chambers singing the praises of that group. It is one of the most effective community groups in the state.

Of the many members of the group who have put effort into the program, I single out Shirley Joiner and Judy Trembath. I thank them for their efforts in preserving significant areas of the Peel region and for the part they played in negotiating the inclusion of the second area in the protected bushland estate. I mentioned Judy Trembath and Shirley Joiner because they were the two members of the Peel Preservation Group who were invited to join the environmental community consultative committee, which was attached to the project to extend the rail line to Mandurah.

At the event to launch the second protected area Shirley Joiner gave a magnificent speech that was very moving as well as informative. She admitted that when she and Judy took on the job on the committee, they did not really know what they were letting themselves in for. It turned out to be an enterprise that went on over many years. She gave us a very colourful account of what it was like to go out with this large number of people. There were between 10 or 12 people in the group. They literally fought for every tree they managed to save. A list of that committee's achievements has been put together in a document titled "ECCC—Significant Outcomes".

Shirley pointed out at the launch of the bushland project that those achievements included the realignment through Pickle Swamp; locating CALM tracks within the rail reserve; redesigning Warnbro Station to retain the threatened species area; the reduction of clearing—saving tuart trees, grass trees and giant spider orchards; salvaging and replanting thousands of grass trees; reorganising the fire hydrants at Warnbro Station; promoting local seed collection and species adjustments; and acquiring a significant amount of money, \$300 000, for the Mandurah mitigation—that is, money to match the city council's contribution towards the acquisition of the second bush site. In addition, they acquired templetonia plants and protect them at Mandurah station.

I will close my remarks by telling the house how Shirley summed up her pleasure about the acquisition of the second bush site. My notes indicate that she said —

... when the extra parcel of bushland was added to Marlee Reserve ...

PPG members are happy; everyone who appreciates nature is happy; visitors will be happy to visit this reserve; our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will appreciate what has been done here today.

And, perhaps most important of all, the black cockatoos will have some trees to call home. The flora and fauna of the area has an assured future in an area which we will (and must) guard with our lives.

These are the sorts of sentiments that people such as Judy Trembath, Shirley Joiner and our mayor Paddi Creevey bring to their activities every day in this slog to make sure that some of these unique areas in Mandurah are protected, and that the lifestyle that everybody in the Peel region values so highly is there for our children, our grandchildren and their children to appreciate. I pay tribute to all of them.