

Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy — Statement by Minister for Environment — Motion

Resumed from 26 May on the following motion moved by Hon Sally Talbot —

That the statement be noted.

Hon SALLY TALBOT: When we last debated this statement some weeks ago now—because this time last week we were busy with estimates—I was making the point that there is a great deal of community suspicion in the Kimberley itself, statewide and, indeed, nationally about the government's commitment to make good on its promise to protect the Kimberley. We know that the government went to the last election effectively mirroring the Labor Party's promises about the Kimberley, although I do note that the Liberal Party's spending commitment standing at \$9 million over four years was roughly half the amount promised by Labor, which I recollect was about \$15 million over the same period.

What is there to see for the money that has already been spent on implementing the government's Kimberley science and conservation strategy? We have an extensive report that was put together by Hon Chris Ellison, who reported on the consultation process for the Kimberley science and conservation strategy. I recommend Chris Ellison's report to members. It runs for about 40 pages and it makes one a little weary reading it because he obviously travelled a great number of kilometres to ensure that he was able to listen to everybody who wanted to have their say on this important strategy. I was able to attend a couple of those sessions and I know the minister did too. I am sure that, like me, the minister was struck by not only the enormous variety of the scope and content of the submissions made, but also the passion and commitment shown by a range of people, some of whom have spent their entire lives living in the Kimberley and others who have come to the area more recently and have taken up the cudgels for the issues that they care about.

Committee interrupted, pursuant to temporary orders.

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Sitting suspended from 4.15 to 4.30 pm