

FRIENDS OF MARY CARROLL LAKE

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.54 pm]: I want to pay tribute to the Friends of Mary Carroll Lake, who play a vital role in managing and protecting Mary Carroll Park Nature Reserve. Mary Carroll Lake is located in Gosnells and was named in 1971 in honour of Mrs Mary Carroll, a well-known teacher at the nearby Gosnells Primary School. Mary Carroll Lake is a major waterbird site. It supports large numbers of waterbirds, songbirds, reptiles and turtles, and a fine assemblage of wetland flora. Mary Carroll Park is a Bush Forever site and is internationally recognised for its ecological values. Presently the lake and its surrounds are home to three pairs of night heron, up to 1 200 nesting ibis, and recently arrived musk ducks. Soon, rainbow bee-eaters will be returning. Most excitingly, we have seen the return of the grey fantail, thanks to the work of the friends group and its rehabilitation of an area with local native plant species. The presence of these birds is evidence of the ecological functionality of Mary Carroll Lake. I especially want to pay tribute to the work of Unice Robinson, the coordinator of the group. Unice is a person with a great community spirit and a terrific conservation ethic. The future of the friends group looks especially bright with people like Shae Hughes, who is a ball of energy, and her husband, Paul. They are the next generation of community conservationists. Other people who deserve special mention include Carol Mattison, who helped get official recognition for the friends group; Terry Staines, now deceased, who tirelessly undertook work such as measuring water depths or reporting vandalism; and Maureen Waters, the honorary warden of Mary Carroll Park, who looks after injured birds. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of Lois Kidd, Kathleen Harrington, Carol Marshall and Sue Killeallon. These people now have the skills and confidence to initiate their own ecological restoration efforts.