

PERTH AND PEEL GREEN GROWTH PLAN FOR 3.5 MILLION — STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

284. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Environment:

I refer to the Perth and Peel Green Growth Plan for 3.5 million and the strategic assessment that is to be conducted under the Environmental Protection Act. Is it the minister's intention to use the Environmental Protection Act part IV environmental impact assessment provisions to conduct the assessment of the plan; and, if not, why not?

Mr A.P. JACOB replied:

I thank the member for Gosnells for the question. In beginning my answer, I acknowledge representatives from Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club who have joined us in the Speaker's gallery today.

It is good to know that emails from my office to Mr Verstegen make it to the member for Gosnells within the first 24 hours. That is nice for me to be well aware of, but anyway I take the point. The green growth plan is an ambitious program from this government and something that we have put —

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the third time. I think that you would like to be here at two o'clock so I advise you to relax for the next seven minutes.

Mr A.P. JACOB: The strategic assessment of the Perth and Peel region or the green growth plan is a plan into which this government has put five years of work. The plan seeks to address the environmental challenges that the Perth and Peel region face at a high-level end right across the region and creates some 170 000 hectares of extra conservation estate within the Perth and Peel region. This plan will create the largest metropolitan conservation estate of any city anywhere in the world and although I am happy to cop criticism from members opposite, I have not yet heard a single alternative. This government is taking seriously the environmental challenges of the Perth and Peel region.

I will get into the nuts and bolts of how it works. It is not only a bold conservation plan, but it is in the first instance. This is the boldest ever conservation plan of any government in any capital city in Australia. The functional side of it is the vehicle of environmental impact assessment. In the first instance, that is being followed through the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act. Yes, it is a strategic assessment through the EPBC act. The Environmental Protection Authority has released section 16(e) advice that pertains to the green growth plan, but the strategic assessment is through part 10 of the EPBC act.