

SWAN-CANNING ESTUARY — RIVER HEALTH

Petition

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.01 pm]: I have a petition concerning the health of the Swan River. It states —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say

the Premier and the Minister for Environment are neglecting the health and safety of the Swan and Canning rivers, Perth's most precious environmental assets. The diversity of Perth's people is reflected in the different ways we enjoy our river. We are all united in wanting action to stop crippling algal blooms, low oxygen levels, fish and dolphin deaths, increases in mosquitos and ongoing degradation of our river banks. But, the Barnett Government has eliminated the dedicated agency, the Swan River Trust, which was tasked with overseeing and delivering programmes for better river health.

Now we ask that the Legislative Assembly

call upon the Barnett Government to recognize the river and its catchment as a Western Australian icon with huge ecological, recreational, social and cultural value and therefore ask that the Trust be reinstated as an agency with responsibility for planning, catchment management and regulation. Furthermore, we ask that the Government calculate the true cost of river repair so a river restoration program can be acted on over the next five years.

The petition bears 475 signatures and has been certified to be in conformity with the standing orders of the house.

[See petition 99.]