

FRIENDS OF ELLIS BROOK VALLEY

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.55 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the work of the Friends of Ellis Brook Valley, especially the work of the group's president, Mr John Bowler. The group's principal aim is the conservation and preservation of Ellis Brook Valley Reserve. It also aims to foster a greater understanding and enjoyment of the reserve by the general public. The reserve is located just a few kilometres east of Gosnells, off Rushton Road in Martin. It is a large area of natural bushland straddling the Darling Scarp. The scenery is dramatic with rugged ridges each side of the valley. The 60-foot waterfall plunges from the top of the scarp after winter rains.

The City of Gosnells manages the valley in partnership with the friends group, which has also assisted in the friends group's careful consideration of the reserve as a nature-based tourism venue in easy reach of the metropolitan area. To this end, the group is looking forward to Main Roads agreeing to tourism signage on Tonkin Highway so that this environmental jewel can be shared and appreciated. The springtime wildflowers are diverse and spectacular. The reserve is acknowledged as one of the richest wildflower locations in the Perth metropolitan area with over 500 species. Ellis Brook Valley is also a rich breeding site and home for many native and visiting birds, including cockatoos, parrots, pardalotes, splendid wrens and wedge-tailed eagles. It is also home to kangaroos, possums, bats and other native wildlife. John Bowler and the friends group are to be commended for their fine work.