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River Foreshore Protection Boosted

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton said the protection of Perth's river foreshores could soon receive a significant boost under a proposed amendment to the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS).

"I welcome the announcement by Planning Minister John Day about the proposed changes by the WA Planning Commission to reclassify more than 18,000 hectares of public land as parks and recreation reserves, including more than 40 proposals to add to the foreshore reserves of the Swan and Canning river systems," said Dr Nahan.

"It is important for these river foreshores and other significant areas to be further protected by the proposed amendment so that this land can be set aside for community recreation."

Dr Nahan said the State Government will work together with local governments and communities to extend and entrench reserves, providing the people of Perth with increased access to the Swan, Canning, Helena and Southern rivers, and to Jane and Ellen brooks.

"One of the long term intentions is to create, where practicable, a network of pathways along the Swan and Canning rivers - one that extends from Fremantle to the Swan Valley, and along the Canning River to beyond the Canning River Regional Park," said Dr Nahan.

"We already have some excellent local bike and walking paths, and the opportunity to extend those would be a boon for families, walkers and bike riders. It would allow them to get out more and enjoy the full amenity of our parklands along the waterways."

Dr Nahan said the MRS amendment contains 155 separate proposals for metropolitan councils, including seven proposals to transfer the zoning of land within the City of Canning.

"It is proposed that several urban zoned areas in the City would be transferred to parks and recreation reservation. The Canning River Regional Park would increase by approximately 1057m², including an extension to the Bush Forever section," said Dr Nahan.

"In addition, more than 14,000 hectares of State forest will be recognised in the MRS as parks and recreation with no change to the current Department of the Environment and Conservation management arrangements."

Members of the community who have an interest in this issue are encouraged to make a public submission. The MRS amendment is available by telephoning 9264 7777 or it can be downloaded from the website <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/comment/>. Public submissions close on Friday, January 29, 2010.

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