



D'Entrecasteaux Coalition

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Protection for Lake Jasper a Step Closer

The D'Entrecasteaux Coalition welcomes the recent announcement by the Minister for the Environment Stephen Dawson that the ecologically important Gingilup – Jasper Wetlands that form part of Lake Jasper's catchment will be reinstated into the conservation estate.

The Environment Minister indicated in a letter to the D'Entrecasteaux Coalition that the re-inclusion of the wetlands next to Lake Jasper back into the D'Entrecasteaux National Park will occur concurrently with the Government's Plan for Our Parks process.

The Plan for Our Parks seeks to ensure that WA's unique biodiversity is protected and conserved, including threatened flora and fauna and their habitats. The Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands surrounding Lake Jasper are a major nursery area for freshwater fishes and frogs and harbours a unique array of plant species.

Scientific surveys of the area have ranked Lake Jasper third among the 27 south coast wetlands for species diversity and abundance. Some birds using the Lake are covered by the Japan/Australia or China/Australia Migratory Bird Agreements. The tall sedgelands of *Baumea articulata* on the western shores of Lake Jasper provide habitat critical to the endangered Australasian Bittern (DBCA 2018)

D'Entrecasteaux Coalition spokesperson Andy Russell said "We look forward to working with the Minister for the Environment to ensure that the protection of Lake Jasper will proceed seamlessly to its conclusion."

Mr Russell added that the next important step in protecting Lake Jasper is to have Strategic Sands, which recently took out a mining lease next to Lake Jasper, relinquish the mining lease application. "We see this as a logical step and an act that a responsible corporate entity would take."

Mr Russell called upon the Minister for Mines, Bill Johnston, to apply a Section 19 of the Mining Act over the excised area next to Lake Jasper. This will ensure the Gingilup-Jasper Wetlands area will not be available for any new mining applications, whilst the government is preparing the Plan for Our Parks nominations.

For further information please contact Coalition Spokesperson Andy Russell 97761559