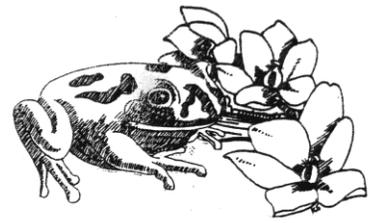




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### Yoondadadup Lake Jasper Conservation Values

The Lake Jasper - Gingilup wetlands are one of the most significant wetlands in WA and Lake Jasper is one of Western Australia's few large freshwater lakes. It is undamaged by human activity. As a near pristine component of the Gingilup-Jasper Wetland system of freshwater lakes, marshes and shrub-swamps, it is a breeding ground to 25 species of waterbirds, such as the endangered little bittern.

The proposed mineral sand mine is on wetlands excised from the D'Entrecasteaux National Park in 1996. Over the years all previous proposals to mine have been dropped and the Government had promised to return the land to its original tenure – National Park. Recent discoveries show the Government failed to live up to its promise.

In a recent letter from The Premier Mark McGowan to Andy Russell, D'Entrecasteaux Coalition spokesperson based in Pemberton.

The Premier stated "I am also aware of the environmental and cultural sensitivities of the Gingilup-Jasper wetland system, and community concern for how a proposed mining operation could affect Lake Jasper and D'Entrecasteaux National Park. Changing the purpose or class of reserves involves addressing a range of matters, including native title and stakeholder input. Noting this, I can advise that processing of the mining lease application has been suspended while a greater understanding of the issues is obtained, and **our intention is to reinstate this area into D'Entrecasteaux National Park**". (our emphasis)

This is a subtle but significant change of wording from recent Environment Minister/Ministerial letters that have stated - '**Once I have the necessary information, I will consider the return of this area to national park**'. (our emphasis)

The nearby former Jangardup mineral sand mine, which ceased production in 2004, has an acid plume moving through the superficial aquifer. This was confirmed by the Environment Minister (Questions on Notice12022019). Acid Sulphates are a very real issue in this zone. This is the second mine to be declared polluting – and that is two out of two – a 100% failure rate. Sulphuric acid groundwater plumes around both former mineral sands mines, Beenup and Jangardup, are warning enough of the environmental dangers.

And we should be questioning this statement that it takes a great deal of work to change tenure back to a National Park – the Government certainly didn't complain about the bureaucratic complexities when excising the land out of the National Park. It seems a very lame excuse for not acting.

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Andy Russell