



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

## **Minister for Environment Minister for Planning**

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### **Media Statement**

22/3/10

#### **World class conservation facility launched at Whiteman Park**

The Minister for Environment Donna Faragher today officially opened Woodland Reserve, a unique, predator-proof conservation and education facility at Whiteman Park.

Four pairs of endangered woylies will be released into the reserve to mark the occasion.

“Woodland Reserve will provide a breeding facility for rare and endangered fauna of the state, including the critically endangered woylie,” Mrs Faragher said.

“Feral predators will be kept out by electrified fencing around the reserve, providing the animals with a safe habitat in which to live.

“This natural Banksia woodland will showcase the native flora and fauna of the region and provide the metropolitan area with a highly significant conservation and education facility.”

“There are plans to reintroduce plant and animal species which are in decline to the Reserve, which will make an important contribution to the protection and management of our flora and fauna.”

Planning Minister John Day said this is an exciting phase in the development of Whiteman Park, which was officially opened in 1986 and is managed by the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC). Almost half of its area is retained for the conservation of wildlife.

“The opening of the Woodland Reserve marks the first step in the delivery of a new and challenging strategic agenda for Whiteman Park in the area of conservation,” Mr Day said.

“It provides a fantastic opportunity to engage, inform and educate the wider community about the issues affecting their local environment.”

“Developments like this can help people understand the threats our environment faces and provide an example of how we can manage its long term sustainability for future generations.”

Tours of the Woodland Reserve will be available from winter 2010 to allow the animals to adjust to their new habitat. Contact the Bookings Officer on 9209 6028.

Media contact: Minister Faragher's Office 9213 7250

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### **Additional information**

- The area delineated for woylie release is enclosed by electrified fence. Detailed research pertaining to design and maintenance was undertaken, with a comprehensive investigation into a number of conservation reserves completed throughout its formation.
- A number of contractors and researchers collaborated to develop fence specifications, which would ensure minimal chance of feral species entering the reserve.
- Within the greater reserve area, a small 2.5 acre 'soft release' enclosure has been constructed. This area has been delineated for newly arriving animals, facilitating close observation and supplementary feeding where required. It is complete with an internal fence skirt to prevent animals from digging out and also an internal floppy top with hot wire.
- A fire suppression reticulation system has been installed around the entire perimeter of the reserve.