



**Media Statement  
June 2010**

**WHITEMAN PARK LAUNCH WORLD-CLASS RESERVE**

One of the most important conservation initiatives in Western Australia has been launched by Whiteman Park in an effort to protect our endangered fauna and flora.

Woodland Reserve is a specially-designed 50 ha electrified predator-proof facility, a world-class breeding ground for WA's rare and endangered fauna including the critically endangered woylie.

Park manager Steve Lowe said, in addition to its significance as a vital environmental initiative for endangered species, the Reserve would provide people with a facility that demonstrated the importance in regional biodiversity.

"This facility is just as important to the community as it is to our endangered fauna and flora," Mr Lowe said.

"It's vital for the community to be aware of the importance of regional biodiversity and this reserve provides an important insight into fauna conservation."

Environment and Natural Areas manager Dr Christine Rafferty said plans for the Reserve had been in development for over three years.

"Our vision when planning the Reserve was to create an area that was reminiscent of pre-settlement bushland, that is, before human disturbance," Dr Rafferty said.

"Woodland Reserve is special because of its close proximity to the metropolitan area, and is the only woodland of its kind to offer such protection."

Reintroductions of plant and animal species which are presently extinct or in decline within Woodland Reserve are forecast, providing a significant contribution to the protection and management of Australian biodiversity as a whole.

Woodland Reserve features a meandering scenic walk trail, suitable for all ages, showcasing the unique flora of the area. Walkers encounter prime banksia woodland, mystic melaleuca damplands and the exquisite beauty of king jarrah and marri trees.

All of these experiences, just 30 minutes from Perth's CBD, and coupled with the possibility of a glimpse of a rare native animal, provide visitors with a unique woodland journey like no other. Guided nocturnal tours which are due to start in Spring, will present the chance of an up-close encounter with native fauna of the region, all in their natural environment.

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