Protecting Kunderley

Four new marine parks, a new national park and additional conservation reserves will be part of the new Kimberley Wilderness Parks.

The Kimberley Wilderness Parks will include Western Australia's largest interconnected system of marine and terrestrial reserves, covering more than 3.5 million hectares of one of the last great wilderness areas in the world.

These initiatives, which will cover an area half the size of Tasmania, are a key component of the State Government's Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy.

The four new marine parks at Camden Sound, North Kimberley, Roebuck Bay and Eighty Mile Beach will nearly treble the total area of marine parks and reserves in WA coastal waters.

This will boost the area of marine parks and reserves in WA coastal waters from 1.5 million to 4.1 million hectares – an increase from 12 per cent to 30 per cent.

The Kimberley Wilderness Parks will include wilderness fishing zones to maintain the world class fishing experience of the region, which will allow recreational fishing for immediate consumption. The Parks will also include sanctuary zones to protect the highly significant marine habitats which will exclude recreational and commercial fishing and other extractive activities.

Kimberley Wilderness Parks will also:

 upgrade the spectacular Prince Regent Nature Reserve, which contains half of the known bird and animal species in the Kimberley, to a class A national park;