

Meet the new Minister

CHERYL Edwardes is CALM's new Minister.

Mrs Edwardes was appointed Minister for the Environment, Employment and Training in the second Court Ministry announced in January.

In the previous Ministry she held the portfolios of Family and Children's Services, Seniors, Fair Trading and Women's Interests.

For the first three years of the Court Government's first term, Mrs Edwardes was Attorney General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs.

Mrs Edwardes entered Parliament at the 1989 election when she won the newly created seat of Kingsley which covers the Perth suburbs of Greenwood, Kingsley, Warwick and Woodvale (the site of CALM's Wildlife Research Centre).

Born in Mt Hawthorn, Mrs Edwardes attended Tuart Hill Primary and High schools. She left school at 15 and worked at a variety of jobs before concentrating on accounting.

At the age of 25, Mrs Edwardes began studying law at the University of Western Australia.

She was awarded the Butterworth Criminal Law Prize in 1980 before completing her Bachelor of Jurisprudence in 1982 and Bachelor of Law the following year.

Mrs Edwardes also holds a Bachelor of Arts majoring in politics and is studying part-time for her Masters in Law.

She has practised as a

barrister and solicitor for a large law firm as well as in her own practice.

Mrs Edwardes is no stranger to CALM. As Minister for Justice, she was actively involved in the joint initiative between CALM and the Ministry of Justice to create prisoner employment programs through the New Bibbulmun Track project and, as Member for Kingsley, has taken an active interest in the Yellagonga Park Advisory Committee which involves the Department's Perth District at Wanneroo.

She is a strong supporter of CALM's Gnangara Park project that will see the pine plantations gradually harvested and a 50,000 hectare conservation park created between Gnangara and the Moore River.

Mrs Edwardes said she was delighted to have been given the Environment portfolio.

"The State Government has identified environmental issues among its priorities," she said.

"The State Salinity Action Plan, that involves a \$3 billion commitment over the next 30 years, is a huge program that will require a tremendous effort by the whole community."

"CALM has a major role in implementing the strategy, especially in expanding commercial tree crops into the wheatbelt areas where salinity and rising water tables are very real threats to the State's environment as well as its economy.

"I also believe that we need to concentrate on



Environment Minister Cheryl Edwardes. Photo by Ernie McLintock

nature conservation initiatives such as *Western Shield* and its associated programs.

Nature conservation now is regarded very much as an integral part of restoring our environment as well as creating naturebased tourism opportunities which will have a big impact on local economies right across the State."

Mrs Edwardes said she was particularly pleased

that Employment and Training had been included with her Environment responsibilities.

"CALM's projects, especially in providing facilities for visitors to the conservation estate, will provide a wealth of a venues for employment and training initiatives, particularly in country areas," she said.

"I will be taking a whole-of-portfolio approach so that we can integrate

environmental programs with training initiatives.

"This integration will create a synergy which will result in big benefits, not only for conservation and the environment, but for training and creating employment opportunities, especially for young people and longer-term unemployed..."

"As well it will link the State's human resources with our natural resources."

