



*The bird hide at the end of the boardwalk. Photo by Alana Stingemore*

## Boardwalk, bird hide built

**VISITORS and wildlife at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve will benefit from the construction of a boardwalk and bird hide at its Marigu Billabong.**

Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve, approximately 20 kilometres south of Wyndham, is an outstanding area for birdlife. Its wetlands are an important feeding and breeding area for many species of birds, an important drought refuge for Kimberley waterbirds, and a recognised stopover point for migratory waders.

The Parry floodplain has been listed as a 'wetland of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention and has been listed on the Register of the National Estate.

CALM was successful in obtaining a Commonwealth Department of Tourism grant for \$61,500 to develop a bird-viewing facility and associated

nature walk at Parry Lagoons Nature Reserve.

Visitors have been viewing the waterbirds at Marigu Billabong in the reserve for many years, but before the establishment of a car park at Marigu and other vehicle regulation measures nearby, visitor vehicle access was uncontrolled around edges of the lagoons. This was damaging the fringe vegetation and birdlife.

With visitor numbers to the reserve increasing, there was a need to further minimise the impact on the area. As a result a raised boardwalk and bird hide was built to ensure minimal disturbance to birdlife and the vegetation around the Billabong.

It will also provide a safe viewing area for visitors to the wetlands by minimising the risk of attack by saltwater crocodiles which inhabit the lagoons.

Interpretative facilities will

also increase visitor awareness of the wetlands' values, the need to protect such areas and the role visitors can play to achieve this.

Designed by CALM architectural draftsman Steve Csaba and Greg Standing, the boardwalk and bird hide was constructed by staff from Swan Region's Jarrahdale Work Centre who previously erected the boardwalks at Penguin Island.

The Mundaring District work crew led by Greg Standing fabricated much of the structure at Jarrahdale, transported the materials over 3000 kms north, and erected the facility at Parry Lagoons.

Visitor response to the boardwalk and bird hide is expected to be favourable.

CALM's East Kimberley staff await the response of local birdlife which may find the structure an ideal place to perch in the wet season when there are fewer human visitors.

