

The airstrip, which is less than a mile from the coast at Greenhead, north of Jurien Bay, was completed by a Perth construction company last month, and is 5,200 ft. long and 300 ft. wide. The strip was prepared merely by grading and levelling the coastal sandplain. In previous years, fish had been transported from this area by truck, and the mortality rate had been high; on rare occasions reaching 50%.

CULTURED PEARLS SELL WELL.

Proof of the high quality of the Kuri Bay cultured pearls came in a recent press report from New York. A choker made of them was sold for \$100,000, (about £A 44,500). Writing in the American magazine "This Week", John Wulp described the Kuri Bay pearls as being more expensive than natural pearls, normally prized above cultured gems.

The article featured pictures of the pearls, which were about $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. The venture had been started, Wulp wrote, by an American business man who wanted to see if he could produce pearls any bigger than those already coming forward from Japan. The waters of Kuri Bay had proved ideal and the first harvest had been made last year. Wulp said that the oysters had grown to enormous size - and so had the pearls.

CRAYFISH BOATS BEACHED.

The "Stella Maris", a 55ft, 23-ton three-masted schooner, and the "Vagabond," a 25ft. fishing boat, both owned by Perth businessman Norman Parker, were blown on to the beach south of Safety Bay on November 1. Mr. Parker said that when strong northwesterly winds came up on Sunday afternoon, he and a member of the crew tried to reach the "Stella Maris" but were driven back. A terrific gust of wind estimated at 75 m.p.h. pushed the "Stella Maris" onto the beach. The "Vagabond" was blown onshore about 60 yards south of the "Stella Maris" a few minutes later. The schooner suffered little damage, the rudder being bumped off in shallow water. The "Vagabond" was not damaged.

Perth businessman Roy Green's 25ft. crayboat "Juanita" went ashore at Ledge Point, south of Lancelin Island, and was holed on a rocky ledge during the height of the blow on the same Sunday. A mobile crane had to be brought from Perth to lift her from the ledge into the water.

OPEN SEASON FOR WILD DUCK.

The Minister for Fisheries, Mr. Hutchinson, announced recently that he had accepted a recommendation from the Fauna Protection Advisory Committee to open the 1959/60 season for wild ducks on the traditional week-end before Christmas. It will close on April 30, the same day as last year.

Details of the opening given by the Minister were as follows:-

- (a) at 6 p.m. in the evening of Saturday, December 19, in the Augusta-Margaret River, Balingup, Bridgetown, Busselton, Capel, Collie-Coalfields, Dardanup, Greenbushes, Harvey, Manjimup, Nannup and Preston road districts;
- (b) at 5 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, December 20, in the remainder of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions not included in the road districts mentioned above.

Duck shooting will be unlawful in any of the following areas which have been set aside as sanctuaries -

- (a) The whole of the area within a radius of twenty miles of the General Post Office, Perth.
- (b) All municipalities and townsites in the South-West Land Division.
- (c) The whole of the Rockingham Road District.
- (d) The whole of the waters of Lakes Leschenaultia, Yealering and Seppings, and Bambun, Wagin, Nambung, Mungala, Nannerup and Wardering Lakes, and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (e) The whole of the waters of the Vasse, King and Kalgan Rivers and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (f) The whole of the waters of Vasse and Wonnerup Estuaries and all land within twenty chains of their shores.
- (g) All the waters of the Leschenault Inlet extending southwards from a line drawn south-east from Waterloo Head (Belvedere) on the west foreshore to a point on the opposite foreshore.
- (h) All that portion of the Capel River between the Capel and Stirling Bridges and all land within twenty chains of the river's banks.
- (i) The whole of the waters of Oyster Harbour and Princess Royal Harbour and all land within a radius of twenty chains of their shores.
- (j) The whole of the area of the Yanchep Caves reserve.

(174.)

- (k) The whole of the Harvey catchment area.
- (l) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Mandurah.
- (m) The whole of the area within a radius of two miles of the Post Office at Boyup Brook.
- (n) The whole of the area within a radius of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the Post Office at Balingup.
- (o) All that portion of the Avon River in the Toodyay road district between the northern boundary of Avon Location 3 and a point opposite road 2069, and all land within twenty chains of the river's banks.
- (p) All that portion of the Avon River from Dumbarton Bridge to the railway Bridge north of Toodyay, and all land within twenty chains of the river's banks.
- (q) All that portion of the Serpentine River from road 8269 at the southern end of Goegrup (Willies) Lake to Peel Inlet near the Old Mill, and all land within twenty chains of the river's banks.
- (r) All State forests, timber reserves, town reservoirs and other areas where shooting is prohibited under the provisions of any other Act, Regulation or By-Law.

"A questionnaire distributed among shooters and honorary wardens revealed the extent to which opinion was divided as to the best opening date and time," the Minister said. "Replies indicated that while there was fairly solid support for the suggested State-wide opening on Saturday afternoon, a slight majority wanted the usual opening times continued. Many other suggestions in respect of the time and the date were made. In all twentysix different openings were recommended, which gave a fair indication of the range of opinion on this contentious question. Under the circumstances, there was little alternative but to maintain the status quo", Mr. Hutchinson said.

"Opinion in respect of the closing date was more united. While various dates between March 15 and June 15 were suggested, over 70% of those proffering an opinion preferred the season to close by April 30. This majority recommendation has been accepted.

"The response to the questionnaire, including the detached and careful thought given by most correspondents, was very much appreciated," Mr. Hutchinson continued. "However, all have had the opportunity of expressing their opinions which, in turn, have been carefully considered. It now behoves shooters to accept the decision and to abide by the regulations in the highest tradition of the sport," the Minister said. "After all, the regulations have been designed to continue and organise the sport in the best interests of all concerned, not forgetting the ducks,"

Emphasising that the close season extended right up to the week-end before Christmas throughout the whole of the South-West and Eucla Land Divisions, Mr. Hutchinson made a direct plea to all shooters not to try to beat the gun as there were still many young ducks about in the flapper stage. Any person apprehended while shooting in the close season, or in any of the prohibited areas listed, could expect to have his firearm seized and be prosecuted, the Minister warned. He concluded by drawing attention to the following restrictions:-

- * The use of traps is entirely prohibited throughout the State.
- * Spotlights are an illegal device.
- * The sale of wild ducks is forbidden.
- * A person shall not keep wild ducks in captivity.