

## **Biography - Donna Faragher**

Donna Faragher is the youngest Liberal woman ever elected to the Western Australian State Parliament.

Aged 33 years and 11 days, Mrs Faragher became the youngest female Minister in WA political history with her appointment as the Minister for Environment and Youth in the first Cabinet of Premier Colin Barnett on September 23, 2008.

Mrs Faragher was born in Middle Swan in 1975 and educated at Guildford Grammar Preparatory School and Perth College. She graduated from The University of Western Australia with a Masters of Education with Honours, and completed a Graduate Diploma in Education (school psychology and education) and a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Psychology.

Before entering State Parliament, Mrs Faragher worked as a policy and parliamentary adviser to former Federal Justice and Customs Minister Chris Ellison.

She was elected to represent the East Metropolitan Region in the Legislative Council on February 26, 2005, and won a second term in 2008.

While in Opposition, Mrs Faragher held various positions within the Shadow Cabinet, including spokesperson for youth, drug abuse and disability services. She was also a member of the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review.

Since being appointed Environment Minister, Mrs Faragher has implemented a number of practical initiatives to maintain and enhance WA's unique environment for current and future generations.

Minister Faragher has delivered conservation strategies for two of WA's most environmentally significant regions. With the Premier, she has launched the Kimberley Wilderness Parks under the Kimberley Science and Conservation Strategy, which will include four new marine parks and one new national park. Minister Faragher has also launched a conservation strategy for the Great Western Woodlands.

Another of Mrs Faragher's important priorities has been approvals reform, with the establishment of the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority; timely consideration of all environmental approvals applications; and legislation to remove duplicative appeal points in the environmental assessment process.

Mrs Faragher has established new offences and penalties for illegal dumping and announced a mandatory reduction of phosphorus in domestic fertilisers.

As Youth Minister, Mrs Faragher promoted the great things young West Australians do for their communities as well as tackled key areas such as illicit drug abuse and mental health issues. She worked to enhance the lives of young people with disabilities and to recognise and support young carers.

She also secured new funding for the sail training ship Leeuwin II and the highly successful Cadets WA program, the first funding increase in 14 years.

Mrs Faragher is married and her recreational interests include cooking, football, rugby and music.