

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT, PARTNERSHIPS

1064. Hon LOUISE PRATT to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:

What progress has the minister made in his local government and regional development portfolio to ensure successful partnerships between other levels of government and other government agencies?

Hon TOM STEPHENS replied:

I appreciate the honourable member's question. I believe the challenge to form good and productive partnerships that can achieve outcomes is the essential challenge in the portfolio of local government and regional development. In fact, I have discovered in life that it is the challenge of the human condition. The challenge is especially true of the local government and regional development portfolio, in which I want to broker arrangements to work in partnership with the 142 local municipalities in Western Australia, the regional development commissions and, more widely, other government agencies. One of the great successes in this area has been the work done by the federal and State Governments that has focused on celebratory work to be done with the Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, in the Halls Creek, south east Kimberley region this coming week. That work is a testimony to the good policy direction of the federal Government on this occasion to conduct a pilot program in the Tjurabalan area to bring together local, state, and federal government agencies to respond to some extraordinary social challenges. Part of my responsibility under that portfolio is to not only work systematically on those issues but also to work with other portfolios of State Government. In that role, I was able to utilise the many hats I had under the previous portfolio arrangements so that significant achievements were made in regional development because of the partnerships between local government and the Department of Housing and Works. At the end of that two-and-a-half year period -

Hon Norman Moore: This sounds like a eulogy rather than an answer to a question.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: No. I am proud to put on the record that a significant body of work was achieved under that partnership. I take this opportunity to table that document during question time. It is a 17-page document that details the body of work that has been done in that partnership.

[See paper No 1221.]

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): Order, members! I am trying to allocate time so that the very members who are interjecting can ask questions.