

**NATIONALS WA CANDIDATE — ALBANY — DELMA BAESJOU**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Nationals WA)** [12.53 pm]: I rise to report that the Nationals WA recently completed a community preselection to select Albany's next member of Parliament—a process that has never been used before in WA. It was a decision in the making over 18 months, launched on 26 June and delivered a sharp eight-week campaign to empower the people of Albany to choose their Nationals WA candidate for the 2021 state election. During that time, volunteers and community members helped raise awareness about the community preselection and encouraged people to get involved. In late July, three local champions stepped forward as nominees to seek the support of the Albany community. Delma Baesjou, Rod Pfeiffer and Darren Bennett did an outstanding job engaging the community, participating in forums, hosting MPs and meeting with businesses and other organisations. The process demonstrated the grassroots credentials of the Nationals WA and the party's willingness to think outside the square to make sure regional communities get the representation they deserve. On 29 August, Delma Baesjou won the vote after more than 500 people turned out to cast their ballot. I extend my sincere thanks to Hon Colin Holt, MLC, South West Region member and driving force, who contributed his time, energy and much more; also Jack Mallick; Louise Kingston; Albany branch president, Peter Robins, and party members; my parliamentary colleagues; the nominees and their families; and last but not least, the Albany community, businesses and organisations for participating. Delma is already working hard for the community and I am pleased we have another strong woman joining our team to fight for regional WA.