

WATERWISE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [2.10 pm]: Last Wednesday, I had the pleasure of addressing the annual Waterwise Recognition event, co-hosted by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation. The event recognises the achievements of participants in the state's five non-residential waterwise programs and celebrates their significant water savings. Climate change continues to impact water resources in Western Australia. That is why it is important that we all work together to protect our state's precious water supply and create waterwise communities. This past summer was one of the hottest on record, with extreme heatwave conditions in the Pilbara and severe heatwaves here in Perth. Both the west coast and south of the state had only 20 to 40 per cent of their average summer rainfall. The waterwise programs support and foster relationships between business, industry and local government to ensure we are all working collectively to address the continuing impacts of climate change. In this battle, local governments, businesses and the community all have an important role to play to help protect and adapt the ways in which we use and value water.

On behalf of the McGowan government, I would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to all those recognised as part of the 2022 Waterwise Recognition Awards, particularly the Platinum Award winners, who continue to show real leadership in the community and innovation in driving water efficiency across the state. Winners included the Town of Bassendean; the City of Bayswater; the QV1 building, Perth; Crown Perth; D'Orsogna Ltd; the City of Joondalup; and the OneOneFive Hamilton Hill property development.

The Waterwise Business Program alone saved more than 12 billion litres of water in 2020–21, which is equivalent to 4 200 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The program has saved more than 124 billion litres since it was introduced in 2007, more than double the annual capacity of the Perth seawater desalination plant. Together, the waterwise programs are achieving significant water savings and helping to ensure a sustainable water future for our great state.