

SHIRE OF CHAPMAN VALLEY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, AWARD

Statement by Member for Greenough

MR J.P.D. EDWARDS (Greenough) [12.55 pm]: I wish to recognise the Shire of Chapman Valley council, which has won top-level recognition for its financial management systems. It was recognised at the annual Department of Local Government and Regional Development Financial Management Awards, which were announced a fortnight ago as part of Local Government Week. The Chapman Valley council received the top award - a certificate of excellence - in its category of Small Rural and Country Regional Local Governments. The award recognised the effectiveness of the council's financial management processes and reporting throughout the 2002-03 financial year for sound and transparent financial practices, which are vital in providing accountable and efficient local government. It is the first time the Shire of Chapman Valley has won the certificate of excellence. The proud chief executive officer, Mr Battilana, said that it was recognition of a clear vision held by councillors and the hard work done by dedicated staff. He is reported as saying -

We had to build our accounting systems to be capable of achieving this and full credit is really due to my deputy, Suzanne Ward.

She has worked tirelessly on upgrading our systems to ensure the transparency and accountability that is expected of local governments today.

A total of 45 councils throughout WA competed for the awards. I recognise also the Shire of Three Springs, which received a certificate of merit as the runner up to the Shire of Chapman Valley.