

WATERWISE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [12.10 pm]: This morning I had the pleasure of attending the annual waterwise recognition event co-hosted by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation. The event celebrates the achievements of participants in the state's five non-residential waterwise programs.

Water is central to the lives and lifestyles of all Western Australians, but as the state responds to the growing impacts of climate change, it has never been more important to work together to create more waterwise communities and protect our state's precious water supply. The impacts of climate change have seen a 20 per cent reduction in rainfall in the state's south west since the 1970s, meaning we can no longer rely on rain alone to meet our water needs and dramatically affecting where precious water supplies are sourced from.

The waterwise programs support and foster relationships between local government, business and industry to ensure that we are all working collectively to meet the challenges posed by climate change. As we continue to feel the impacts of climate change, local governments, businesses and the community all have a role to play to protect and adapt the way they use water.

I would like to congratulate all those recognised as part of the 2021 waterwise recognition awards, particularly our platinum award winners, who continue to show real leadership and innovation in driving water efficiency. They include the joint Waterwise Councils of the Year, the City of Bayswater and the City of Cockburn; the Waterwise Building of the Year, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth, owned by GDI Property Group; the Waterwise Business of the Year, Inghams Enterprises, Wanneroo; and the Waterwise Development of the Year, WGV by DevelopmentWA.

The Waterwise council program was introduced by the Water Corporation and DWER over 12 years ago. A total of 46 councils are now endorsed through the program, with eight councils this year recognised for 10 years' participation. Together, they are achieving billions of litres of water savings for our state and helping to ensure a sustainable water future.