

DOLPHIN DISCOVERY CENTRE AND VICTORIA SQUARE, BUNBURY

Statement by Member for Bunbury

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.58 pm]: Bunbury is transforming itself into a smart, vibrant and interesting city. Today I acknowledge two projects that have made an extraordinary contribution and, in so doing, have taken out major awards in the 2019 Master Builders Association awards.

The first is the Dolphin Discovery Centre. Local architects designed the new building as an expression of Wardandi stories surrounding the dolphins of Koombana Bay, and married these with a contemporary tourism experience that incorporates interactive marine experiences with social enterprise. Perkins Builders took out the award for construction on a challenging site. I congratulate Michel Greenhalgh, the architect, and his team; Dan Perkins and Perkins Builders; David Kerr from the Dolphin Discovery Centre; and Ashley Clements and Gayle Gray from the South West Development Commission.

The second award went to Victoria Square as the best commercial building in the \$5 million to \$10 million category. Victoria Square is a product of a long-held vision of Nick and Robyn DeMarte, who operate a local business, Halifax Crane Hire. This building stands on Victoria Street and pushes the envelope in architectural design and innovative building practice. It is a proud statement about the future of Bunbury and of this high-quality commercial and residential accommodation. At a time when others are holding back on investment, Mr and Mrs DeMarte took the lead and gave Bunbury an injection of confidence.

Both of these projects used local skills and provided opportunities for local apprenticeships as well as for Indigenous people. They highlight a new Bunbury that is based on a clear vision of the future and a strong sense of purpose. I take the time to congratulate people on making an extraordinary contribution to an extraordinary regional city.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm