

GREENOUGH HAMLET, INTERPRETIVE AND VISITOR CENTRE

Statement by Member for Greenough

MR J.P.D. EDWARDS (Greenough) [12.55 pm]: I congratulate the Shire of Greenough and the National Trust of Australia for financing and implementing a new interpretive and visitor centre at the Greenough Hamlet. The Greenough Hamlet is a group of 14 buildings built circa 1860s, 22 kilometres south of Geraldton. Until the early 1970s, the main North West Coastal Highway ran through the village. The last residents moved out of the hamlet at about that time. The buildings were placed in the care of the National Trust which, with the support of the Sir Charles Court State Government, renovated and refurbished them to an acceptable standard of care and maintenance. Various local bodies were involved in that care and maintenance, and the National Trust employed a manager to operate a small shop and visitor centre. It became apparent after some years that this arrangement was not satisfactory, and something better was needed. The Shire of Greenough made a significant decision to take on a leading role in managing the Greenough Hamlet. A partnership agreement was brokered between the Shire of Greenough and the National Trust. I am proud to say that I had a significant role in that partnership agreement. I believe it was the first such agreement arranged between local government and the National Trust. The arrangement means that the everyday management, care and maintenance become the responsibility of the council, with the National Trust continuing in its role of procuring funds and being responsible for capital expenditure. This partnership has seen enormous improvements in the operation and attractiveness of the hamlet, for the benefit of the Western Australian community. The interpretive and visitor centre will allow the general public to absorb and learn about the pioneer district of Greenough. I recognise all the financial stakeholders in this very positive enterprise, and wish the Shire of Greenough and the National Trust of Australia all success in the future.