

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY - PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Statement by Minister for the Environment

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment) [2.30 pm]: I inform the house that the state government and local government have entered a major partnership agreement focusing on climate change and sustainability issues. At the WA Local Government Association convention on 6 August 2007, I signed the agreement on behalf of the state government, along with Bill Mitchell, president of the Western Australian Local Government Association, and Eric Lumsden, president of Local Government Managers Australia. This groundbreaking agreement, which has been developed in very close collaboration with WALGA on behalf of local government, aims to ensure closer communication, collaboration and joint action on a diverse range of climate change and sustainability matters that are of mutual interest and concern to both spheres of government. The agreement reflects the spirit and substance of the peak partnership agreements signed in 2002 and 2004, which foster cooperation and communication between the state government and local government. It also complements the Premier's climate change action statement released in May of this year.

The agreement is an indication of the importance the Carpenter government attaches to collectively addressing the wide spectrum of matters on the sustainability agenda, with a particular focus on the increasingly critical issue of climate change. Local government is to be congratulated on its achievements to date in addressing sustainability in the areas of waste management, biodiversity protection, natural resource management, energy and water conservation, community health, housing and other infrastructure development. The new agreement signals a commitment by the Carpenter government to take a more significant leadership role in encouraging and facilitating further policy and best practice.

Under the agreement a state-local government climate change and sustainability council will be formed, with high-level representation from state and local government. I will chair this body, which will meet twice a year to address strategic directions. It will provide the opportunity for significant matters to be considered at the highest levels of state and local government and for joint policies and actions to be developed and implemented.

I congratulate the WA Local Government Association and Local Government Managers Australia on their commitment to partner with the Carpenter government in addressing climate change and its potential impact on our state. Partnerships such as these are further examples of how the Carpenter government is acting now for the future.