

HERITAGE PERTH — HISTORIC HEART

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.02 pm]: As part of Perth Heritage weekend, I was pleased to attend the launch of the Historic Heart project for East Perth. I believe that this innovative project has the potential to revitalise the east end of the Perth CBD, build a strong identity for the area and create a safe and vibrant destination for the local community and visitors. Historic Heart speaks to the history of the urban environment, intertwined with the community. The launch of the Historic Heart project on Sunday was held on the site of the fledgling Swan River Colony's first hospital, surrounded by some of Perth's oldest buildings—Perth Mint, our first fire station, the law courts, Government House and St Mary's Cathedral. The McGowan government is proud to support Historic Heart's objective to improve the urban environment and will provide a \$250 000 contribution to support signage, lighting, closed-circuit television and a range of landscaping initiatives, including bike racks, alfresco areas and planter boxes. I understand that expertise from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Department of Transport has helped shape the plan to link the CBD through this precinct and onto the new Perth Stadium via the Swan River pedestrian bridge, along with the planned Waterbank riverfront redevelopment along the Causeway. Western Australia is an ancient land and the story of Perth is far deeper than that represented by its urban fabric. Aboriginal people have a long association with the East Perth area and there are many important Aboriginal heritage sites within this area that overlay with colonial settlement heritage—for example, Government House.

Historic Heart marks the beginning of the resuscitation of Perth's east end. Although Historic Heart is not a major infrastructure project, it is a commendable initiative aimed at improving the amenity and urban environment. I would like to acknowledge Mr Adrian Fini, whom we must credit with the conception of the Historic Heart of Perth initiative, and also the member for Perth, John Carey, who is a passionate advocate for the renewal and activation of spaces within the city. Improving the amenity of the area will encourage visitors to wander around the precinct, absorbing some of the heritage ambiance. The official launch of Historic Heart at this year's Perth Heritage Days was not simply a happy coincidence—rather, it is hoped that this initiative will ultimately have a part to play in strengthening the beating heart of Perth.

I would like to finish by acknowledging Mr Richard Offen's stewardship of Heritage Perth for more than a decade. Richard will shortly be bowing out of this role, so, Richard, please accept my very best wishes for the future.