

FREMANTLE PRISON — 2017 PERTH AIRPORT WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.04 pm]: I am pleased to advise the house of Fremantle Prison's success at the 2017 Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Fremantle Prison was awarded the gold medal in the cultural tourism category, which recognises tourism operations that foster a greater understanding and appreciation of authentic culture, history, heritage and/or the arts. The prison came ahead of the belltower, home of the Swan bells, and the Museum of the Great Southern in Albany, both of which I am proud to say fall within my culture and arts portfolio. This is the third gold medal win in three consecutive years for the prison, meaning that it will be inducted into the WA Tourism Awards hall of fame for the cultural tourism category in 2018. Fremantle Prison was also awarded a silver medal in the major tourist attractions category, which recognises natural or built tourist attractions that attract amongst the highest visitor numbers during the qualifying period for Western Australia. The prison was inducted into the hall of fame for this category in 2010. I also congratulate Whiteman Park on winning gold in this category, and Rottneet Island, which was awarded bronze.

Last, but certainly not least, I congratulate Fremantle Prison tour guide Janine Della Bosca, who won the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco-Tourism Golden Guide Award. This category recognises the significant contribution that high-quality tour guides make in providing memorable visitor experiences through the interpretation of natural and cultural environments. Janine has been a Fremantle Prison tour guide since 2010 and leads a range of fascinating, educational and entertaining tours. In addition, Janine was involved in the development and exclusive delivery of the art tour and its companion publication *Art Behind Bars: Murals and Graffiti of Fremantle Prison*.

The McGowan government has elevated the importance of tourism as a means of diversifying the economy and creating local jobs across the state. We have committed \$45 million a year to promote Western Australia in key interstate and international markets as a high-quality and affordable destination. We have a diverse range of attractions for visitors. We know that for every 130 people who stay overnight in Western Australia, it represents a job for Western Australians. To encourage visitors to stay longer, we are working closely with the Minister for Tourism to ensure that along with our natural attractions, we also showcase our heritage, our Indigenous and multicultural communities and our thriving arts industry. Fremantle Prison is a perfect example of heritage and tourism working together to create an iconic attraction that delivers economic benefits to the state. I congratulate the prison on its success at the tourism awards and encourage all members to show their support by taking their families to the prison for a tour or to view one of its fantastic exhibitions over the Christmas holidays.