

NATIONAL TRUST OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA — SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.08 pm]: Last night, Hon Kim Beazley, AC, Governor of Western Australia, hosted the sixtieth anniversary celebration of the National Trust of Western Australia. Formed in 1959 by a small group intent on protecting Western Australia's significant trees, the group quickly saw that the job of heritage conservation was far bigger and took on the already successful National Trust model from the United Kingdom. The National Trust of Australia (WA) Act was passed by Parliament in 1964.

Over the last 60 years, the National Trust has continually aspired to awaken the Western Australian community to the value of heritage by connecting people to the story of their state through places and objects it cares for on their behalf. Through the late 1970s and 1980s the National Trust was an active participant in the public debate that led to the passing of the Heritage Act 1990. The trust also informed recent debate around the Heritage Bill 2017 and the establishment of a modern legislative framework to guide the preservation of Western Australian heritage in the twenty-first century.

Today the State Heritage Council and the National Trust work closely for the benefit of heritage in Western Australia. The National Trust strives to preserve and protect important places, landscapes, customs and values from the past so they can be enjoyed by present and future generations. Now the National Trust welcomes some 15 000 visitors a year to its historic sites, over 5 000 people engage with public programs at events at heritage places, over 10 000 school children participate in curriculum-based education programs and some 70 000 people enjoy events at the Australian Heritage Festival, delivered by over 100 participating community organisations. In addition, the National Trust cares for natural heritage through a private covenanting program and is undertaking important work to assist Aboriginal communities to build sustainable enterprises, and in reclaiming and recording at-risk Aboriginal languages. I would like to congratulate the trust and its amazing volunteers and staff for their amazing work over the last 60 years.