

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONVENTION AND TRADE EXHIBITION 2018

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [9.06 am]: Between 1 and 3 August, the Western Australian Local Government Association held its annual WA Local Government Convention and Trade Exhibition at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. This year's theme was "Ready and Relevant", which encouraged delegates to reflect on where local government is as a sector and plan for the challenges ahead. The convention attracted elected members, chief executive officers and deputies from regional and metropolitan local governments across the state. The state government, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, supported the event and also had a department booth in the convention exhibition area.

A stop puppy farming survey, which was conducted to address a key election commitment, attracted a further 140 submissions from the convention alone. I addressed the annual general meeting and the State and Local Government Forum and also presented at the beneficial enterprises breakfast and the local government children's health and wellbeing awards and breakfast. I thanked WALGA, Local Government Professionals Australia WA and local governments for the opportunities to work collaboratively over the past year and their continued support for the Local Government Act 1995 review. There is a new spirit of collaboration between local and state government, which is exemplified by the signing of the "Western Australian State Local Government Agreement". It is my observation that we see better outcomes in the community when local governments are empowered to determine local services for local needs and the best model for delivery, which may be at a regional level. As members know, a key focus for the McGowan government is restoring the relationship between state and local government. The State and Local Government Forum was an opportunity for a number of my cabinet colleagues to share our vision for Western Australia and to speak directly to local government elected members. It was an opportunity for state and local government leaders to come together and discuss matters that deliver beneficial outcomes for WA's local communities. This year's State and Local Government Forum and, more broadly, the WALGA convention, was a great testament to this.

In addition, I opened the local government children's health and wellbeing awards—the Children's Environmental and Health Local Government Policy Awards—and breakfast. The awards were established by the Public Health Advocacy Institute of Western Australia to illustrate the important role that local government plays in promoting healthy children and young people and the positive impact that healthy environments have for young people and the broader community. I acknowledge the efforts of all the award recipients, in particular the Shire of Waroona for the regional award, the City of Cockburn for being the overall winner and the City of Mandurah for receiving the most accessible regional city award. As the Minister for Local Government, there are few rewards greater than seeing Western Australian local governments coming together for young people in their communities. The role that local government can and does play in developing the social capital of their communities and giving young people the best chance to find their voice and tell their own stories is pivotal.