

DRAFT HERITAGE REGULATIONS — PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.10 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to advise members that on 5 March 2019, I released the draft heritage regulations 2019 for public comment. This is one of the final steps on the road to enacting the Heritage Act 2018. The legislation was passed by Parliament on 12 September 2018 and received royal assent on 18 September 2018. It replaces the outdated Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990. The new legislation ensures better protections for important heritage places, streamlines processes and will provide greater certainty for owners wishing to adapt and develop their heritage places.

The act came at the end of an eight-year journey involving bipartisan support from both sides of the house. I would like to again acknowledge all the individuals and organisations that helped shape this important and contemporary piece of legislation, and their continued input is encouraged as we finalise all the elements that will ultimately bring the legislation to life. The heritage regulations 2019 have been drafted to support proclamation of the act. They cover a number of matters raised in parliamentary debate on the legislation and I would encourage members to consider them and provide comment.

As part of the state government's commitment to deliver the best possible outcomes for Western Australian communities, public consultation on the regulations will be open for an eight-week period in line with the state Local Government Partnership Agreement. The consultation period closes on 3 May 2019 and I would appreciate the support of members in promoting this opportunity to their constituents. There will be a special round of regulations to deal with a number of remaining issues which are not essential to proclamation of the act and which will also be subject to future consultation. The government will soon also be calling for nominations from experienced heritage professionals who are interested in becoming members of the Heritage Council. The Heritage Act 2018 moves away from requiring that council members represent certain interests or groups, and instead sets out criteria for skills and expertise. The new Heritage Council will play a key role in the implementation of the new act and I again encourage members to promote this opportunity to their constituents.