

## **STATE AND LOCAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government)** [12.05 pm]: Before I make my brief ministerial statement, on behalf of the member for Girrawheen I would like to acknowledge the students from Kingsway Christian College in the public gallery this morning.

I rise to inform the house of the fulfilment of a further commitment of the McGowan government, with the signing and commencement of the partnership agreement between the Western Australian Local Government Association, Local Government Professionals WA and the state government. The signing of the State and Local Partnership Agreement recognises that a robust partnership is built on trust and mutual respect—two essential requirements that cultivate good governance and better decision-making across both spheres of government. It also addresses the state’s responsibility to deliver services in a coordinated way, as well as the unique strengths of each sector: the state government, with its ability to set policy and implement programs; and the presence of the local government sector in all Western Australian communities. These complementary strengths, when combined, will allow us to be more equipped to confront the major challenges facing Western Australia, as well as everyday issues affecting local communities. The agreement outlines protocols for joint consideration and consultation time frames on strategic issues, and state government policy impacting the local government sector. The partnership agreement will facilitate a cooperative and consultative working relationship between the state and local governments to achieve better outcomes for communities. It is vital that state and local government works together to deliver the best possible outcomes for Western Australian communities. We do not have to agree on everything, but the basis of trust and mutual respect will keep the channels of communication open. Both the Premier and I have served in local government. We understand it takes substantial teamwork to deliver the demands of your communities. As Minister for Local Government, I intend to be a champion for the sector and work with local governments to assist them to confront the major challenges facing them and the communities they represent. This agreement signals a new era of collaboration between the state government and the local government sector in Western Australia.