

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

Statement by Minister for the Environment

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah - Minister for the Environment) [12.04 pm]: The Carpenter government is acting now for the future through a variety of programs that will help Western Australians prepare to confront the climate change challenge and help conserve our environment for generations to come. There are many community organisations, individuals, businesses and government agencies that are doing outstanding work in achieving this important goal, particularly in terms of reducing their own environmental footprint, and we must celebrate them.

On Friday, 16 November I had the pleasure of attending the annual Western Australian Environment Awards ceremony organised by the Department of Environment and Conservation. This evening was indeed inspiring: it showcased many of the wonderful contributions ordinary Western Australians have made to environmental protection as well as the conservation of our amazing biodiversity.

As Minister for Climate Change, as well as the Minister for the Environment, I was particularly proud that the top prize was awarded to Men of the Trees for its carbon neutral program. I also had the pleasure of presenting the inaugural Act Now Environmental Award to Carbon Neutral. Carbon Neutral will effectively remove at least 150 000 tonnes of carbon dioxide greenhouse gas over a 70-year period through its innovative tree planting program. This equates to taking about 37 500 cars off the road. Men of the Trees has made great inroads in educating the community about the effect motor vehicles, air travel and energy consumption have on the environment. It has helped the community and industry take responsibility for the effect of greenhouse gas emissions by offering the opportunity to offset the carbon dioxide produced by their daily activities through revegetation.

I was pleased that the former Minister for the Environment, the member for Maylands, was also present at the awards and witnessed the selection of Bedforddale gardener Carolyn Lagrange as the overall winner for the Individual Environment Award for her project, A Garden Path, through which she has creatively transformed her 1.7 hectare property into a functional environmental education facility. At the event, Carolyn presented those creatures that assist her in her work and the member for Maylands has some of them here - worms. Carolyn very proudly held them aloft during her acceptance speech. People such as Carolyn are wonderful members of our community.

The 2007 Western Australian Environment Awards attracted 69 entrants from business, government and community projects throughout Western Australia. I congratulate the various category winners and nominees for their wonderful achievements and I table a booklet on the award winners and entrants.

[See paper 3485.]

Mr C.J. Barnett: Table the worms!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I cannot table the worms because I intend to return them to the appropriate place in the parliamentary gardens.