

HERITAGE GRANTS PROGRAM 2017–18

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.35 pm]: I am not sure whether the students are still here but, on behalf of the member for Nedlands, I would like to acknowledge students from Dalkeith Primary School, who joined us this morning.

I am pleased to advise the house that applications open today for the 2017–18 heritage grants program. The program, run by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, enables private owners of state heritage-listed places to apply for a share of \$1.2 million in grants to undertake urgent conservation works or works that demonstrate planning for the future, such as developing conservation management plans. Owners can apply for grants of up to \$100 000 via a competitive process, which they are required to match dollar for dollar. The program is now in its twenty-first year. Since its inception, almost 750 projects have received heritage grants totalling more than \$18 million. Previous grant recipients have received assistance with repairing structural problems, replacing defective roof sheets, restoring joinery and undertaking works such as tuck pointing to protect a place's heritage fabric. In 2016–17, 13 metropolitan and 15 regional places shared in grant funding which, when combined with owner contributions, generated almost \$3 million in conservation works.

This morning I visited the 105-year-old Newmarket Hotel in Fremantle, which was rescued from a derelict state by a passionate owner with the help of a \$100 000 heritage grant. The grant saw the original timber verandahs reinstated, external brickwork restored and the interior floors refinished as part of its adaptation into a ballet school.

The McGowan government's support for the heritage grants program recognises the importance of encouraging owners of state heritage-listed places to invest in their conservation and ensure the long-term viability of our cultural heritage. It also supports local jobs and heritage tourism. I encourage all members and local governments to spread the word about the heritage grants program to their constituents and encourage private owners to contact the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage for assistance with their grant application so that they have the best possible chance of securing funding. Applications close at 12 noon on Tuesday, 31 October 2017. Successful grant recipients are expected to be announced early next year.