

HERITAGE ACT 2018

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.11 am]: I rise to inform the house that last Wednesday, 12 September 2018, Parliament passed the Heritage Bill 2017 and on Tuesday, 18 September 2018, the Governor assented to the bill, giving Western Australia a new Heritage Act that will offer greater protection for our state's heritage places. This new legislation is the result of intensive stakeholder consultation following the McGowan government's election commitment to overhaul complex and cumbersome legislation that did not necessarily reflect contemporary heritage practices and management.

The Heritage Act 2018 comes at the end of an eight-year journey involving bipartisan support from current and previous members of this house. The McGowan government is delighted to deliver a new Heritage Act that is in line with contemporary community values and expectations. The new act provides transparent and simple to operate legislation that reflects best practice in recognising and protecting heritage places. The new heritage legislation will replace the outdated Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 and brings Western Australia into line with other states to ensure better protections for important heritage places, in particular, those left to demolition by neglect. Key changes include: a streamlined process for entering a place in the state register; certainty for owners wanting to develop heritage places; and increased transparency, by publishing the Heritage Council's advice to the Minister for Heritage on the inclusion of a place in the state register. Greater protection for state-registered places will also occur through a mix of incentives such as grants and access to technical assistance. The new legislation also balances identifying and recording local heritage places without imposing controls on owner's properties.

The McGowan government will continue to work with the community to enhance the value of our heritage buildings and reactivate and conserve them as part of our unique Western Australian history. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Heritage Council of Western Australia for helping guide the review of heritage legislation, and acknowledge the work of Graeme Gammie and Joel Gilman from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office in coordinating and drafting the new legislation.