

WEST AUSTRALIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [2.01 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the incredible Western Australian talent and creativity showcased as part of the West Australian Music Festival and awards, which took place from 1 November to 5 November in venues and public spaces across Perth and regional Western Australia. Better known as WAMFest, the annual festival is organised by the West Australian Music Industry Association Inc, with funding support from Lotterywest; the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; Healthway; and other funding partners, and showcases hundreds of local bands, musicians and other creative talents through events, awards, conferences and free public performances. This year included the WAMFest Live Lot Party. This free concert celebrated Western Australian music across two stages and was hosted at the new Perth City Link project.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the WA bands and individuals honoured at the annual WAMAwards, which celebrate the achievements of the best and brightest in the local music industry for the past year. This year's winners include rising star Stella Donnelly, winner of five awards, including best single, best female vocalist and most popular new act; Methyl Ethel, winner of best album, best pop act and best male vocalist; Nannup Music Festival director and Indigenous performance advocate Phaedra Watts, winner of the golden WAMi; and many other artists, managers and industry workers acknowledged by the public and their industry peers through the awards.

Western Australian bands, musicians and creative artists have long been seen to punch above their weight on the national and international stage, reflecting our unique and diverse cultural landscape and sharing our music and stories with the world. This government has confirmed its commitment to supporting the live music industry in Western Australia, as outlined in Creative WA, with measures to improve the regulatory environment for live music venues aimed at activating spaces with a diverse range of cultural activity, attracting more festivals and supporting the development of the local music industry. These measures include investigating planning measures such as the agent of change to protect existing live music venues and residents; the development of micro-festivals in Perth and regional centres; introducing public interest assessments to support live music and entertainment under the Liquor Control Act; and establishing a \$3 million creative music development fund to support the creative music industry in Western Australia. This government's support can also be seen in planning approval for the Perth City Link events program, which will include live music and entertainment events. This was announced on Friday by the Minister for Planning and will create additional event spaces and make it easier for organisers to stage live music and festivals.

Western Australia enjoys a richness of creative talent in music and other creative areas, and this government will continue its commitment to supporting its development, recognising its strong place in our contemporary culture, and sharing this talent with the world.