

“CUE PARLIAMENT”

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [2.02 pm]: On Friday, 2 November, I attended the Murchison Country Zone meeting, which is historically and affectionately known as “Cue Parliament”, I understand that it was due to the efforts of former Cue shire president Jimmy Price to emphasise the importance and political significance of the region that it was dubbed “Cue Parliament” and, historically, political leaders were shamed into attending.

“Cue Parliament” is a biannual event, and the Murchison Country Zone is formed by six shires: the Shire of Cue; the Shire of Meekatharra; the Shire of Mount Magnet; the Shire of Murchison; the Shire of Sandstone and the Shire of Yalgoo. The area occupied by the local government districts in the zone is almost as large as the United Kingdom, with a combined population of less than 2 400 people. The purpose of the group is to work cooperatively on regional projects, advocate on behalf of the Murchison region, and address common issues.

I thank the shire president of Cue, councillor Ross Pigdon, councillor Les Price, and the chief executive officer, Mr Rod Madson, for their invitation and hospitality. “Cue Parliament” was well attended by the federal Minister for the Environment and two of our colleagues, Hon Ken Baston and the member for North West Central. It is a great opportunity to hear about the cooperation in the regions in service delivery, and see a group of local governments working together to achieve for their communities and share knowledge and resources.

Now I put on my Minister for Heritage hat. At the turn of the nineteenth century, Cue was one of Western Australia’s gold rush towns and boasted a population of 10 000 residents. While more than 100 years later Cue can no longer claim such a large population, a thriving regional community with a rich collection of heritage places remains. From the old band rotunda in the heart of the town to the eerie iron-clad Masonic Lodge, Cue can proudly boast a significant number of state heritage places. Indeed, the former post office at Cue was awarded the 2018 Western Australian Heritage Award for the adaptive re-use of a state registered place, giving one of our state’s oldest and most significant buildings a new lease on life.