

GUILDFORD HISTORIC TOWN — STATE REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES — ASSESSMENT

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.07 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to advise members of the house that on 6 June, I announced that Guildford historic town will be assessed for inclusion in the state Register of Heritage Places. It is no secret that I am partial to a good story and, in fact, have been known to tell one or two myself!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Preamble, minister!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Guildford historic town has a wonderful story to tell about Western Australia's early history and development. As one of only three towns established in Western Australia during the founding of the Swan River Colony in 1829, Guildford is one of the state's most important historic areas. The historic precinct is rare as a highly intact nineteenth-century town that retains its original grid-pattern layout around a central square. The area is characterised by a very fine collection of predominantly nineteenth-century buildings, some of which are individually significant, which together illustrate the town's development and prosperity. There are already 28 individual places in Guildford that are included on the state register because they are significant in their own right; they each tell a very distinct story about that specific place. However, this proposal is about the story the historic town tells as a whole. Heritage is woven into the very fabric of the Guildford community, with its sense of identity inextricably linked to the rich history of the town.

The City of Swan requested that Guildford historic town be assessed for possible inclusion in the state register following its own community consultation process, which indicated strong support for heritage recognition at state level.

I want to acknowledge the work of the member for Midland for her ongoing and persistent advocacy for this listing consideration. Once the assessment is complete, the Heritage Council and I will want to hear from owners, tenants and the local community about whether they support the entry of the Guildford historic town in the state register. The Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage is preparing the assessment documentation, which will be sent to owners and other stakeholders in late August or early September to seek their views on the proposal. This is a rare opportunity for Guildford's rich history to be formally recognised at the state level and I urge everyone to be part of this conversation.