

WEST PILBARA PLAN

Statement by Minister for Child Protection

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [9.05 am]: I rise to inform the house about my visit to Roebourne last week where, once again, I had the honour to sit down with community leaders and listen to how things are going in their town. Members will be aware that the west Pilbara plan is the McGowan government's response to the multigenerational trauma revealed by the extraordinary prevalence of child sexual abuse in west Pilbara, particularly in Roebourne. The plan is a strong, coordinated response to these issues, with a focus on supporting affected children, their families and the community. It is about the government and community walking side by side to make sure that children are safe, healthy, getting to school and have a strong connection to their culture. At the recent community cabinet, we were joined by members of the Roebourne community and met young Max, who performed for us part of Big hART's production *Tjaabi*.

During my recent visit, I was struck by the growing sense of confidence in the community about what is possible. Whether it is talking about ideas to get people together to watch the upcoming 2018 Toyota AFL grand final or finding ways to connect young people with country and culture, there is enthusiasm and excitement about the future. The west Pilbara plan is also making a real difference on the ground, with several homes now being upgraded to become "strong households", which will fulfil an aspiration of the community to have safe places for children and young people. In addition, at the request of families, 38 houses now have alcohol restrictions. With increasing confidence and commitment, they are an example of the hard decisions that families are now prepared to make.

WA Police Force data for the subdistrict of Roebourne–Wickham shows that from 2017 to 2018, burglaries are down by 40 per cent, stealing is down by 60 per cent, damage is down by 30 per cent, family domestic violence is down by 25 per cent and drug detection is up by 162 per cent. No-one is under the illusion that things will change overnight, but I am confident that if we walk side by side with the community, we will see long-lasting change in west Pilbara.