

**LOCAL GOVERNMENTS — GREAT SOUTHERN REGION —  
INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government)** [9.03 am]: I wish to inform the house about an innovative program being implemented by local governments in the great southern region. In March 2017, all 11 local governments in the great southern region were brought together by the City of Albany and the Shire of Denmark to determine how they would help each other to meet their integrated planning and reporting obligations and promote continuous improvement. This is a great example of local governments sharing resources and working together to achieve positive outcomes for their communities. The IPR framework provides a sound basis for local governments to define a clear and consistent strategic direction informed by operational priorities. IPR requirements have been in force since 1 July 2013 and enable local governments to transform short-term planning cycles into modern planning and reporting frameworks that consistently integrate all aspects of a local government's operations with its longer-term vision.

Based on the preliminary information available, the pilot program appears to have exceeded all expectations. One of the key outcomes of the program is the development of a dropbox. Simple as it may seem, the dropbox enables all great southern local governments to share practical tools, templates and examples that they can easily customise to align with their particular IPR needs. Another outcome is a range of professional development initiatives, which include training in engagement essentials, methods and design asset management, and business planning. The business planning workshop led to the development of a practical framework that can be shared with all 11 participants. This framework is based on a simple, yet clever, template that can align all services and activities delivered by each local government to the vision, purpose, values and strategic objectives developed collaboratively with the community. The pilot program has shown beyond doubt that peer support is one of the best and most cost effective ways to build organisational capacity and promote continuous improvement at a regional level.

I would like to acknowledge the program facilitators, the City of Albany's Mr Stephen Grimmer and the Shire of Denmark's Ms Teiga Murray, in securing the ongoing commitment of all 11 great southern local government chief executive officers for the pilot. In addition, the advisory networks provided by Local Government Professionals Australia WA, through the Integrated Planners Network, have also been critical to the pilot's success. The state government is proud to partner with the great southern local governments to deliver this IPR development initiative—the first of its kind in Australia. As the Minister for Local Government, I am confident that other regional local governments will take note of what has been achieved in the great southern and write their own chapter in promoting IPR as a core business process across the local government sector.