

HERITAGE ACT

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.13 am]: On 20 September 2018, I informed the house that Parliament had passed the Heritage Bill 2017. The Governor assented to the bill on 18 September, effectively giving Western Australia a new heritage act, to be known as the Heritage Act 2018. The new act replaces the outdated Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 and is the result of the state government's commitment to overhaul what had been a sometimes complex, inflexible and unclear heritage assessment and consultation process. The new act ensures better protections for important heritage places, streamlines processes, provides greater clarity for owners wishing to adapt and develop their heritage places, and increases transparency.

In March 2019, I released the draft Heritage Regulations 2019 for public comment. This is the minimum set of regulations necessary to facilitate the smooth transition from the current Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 to the new act. A total of 20 submissions were received from state government agencies, local governments, industry stakeholders, professionals such as archaeologists and town planners, and community members. Overall, the submissions indicated general support. The regulations are now finalised, and it is intended that they will be published in the *Government Gazette* today. Both the new act and the regulations are proposed to come into effect on 1 July 2019.

The development of a more extensive set of regulations to address a wider range of issues under the new act will commence following the proclamation of the new act. The new act has come at the end of an eight-year journey involving bipartisan support from both sides of the house. It will ensure the places that represent Western Australia's history and development are appropriately identified, protected and celebrated for generations to come. I would like to acknowledge again all the individuals and organisations that helped to shape this important and contemporary piece of legislation.

The SPEAKER: Well spoken, minister.