

WEARABLE ART MANDURAH

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.04 pm]: I need to highlight that on the daily program the title of this should be “Wearable Art Mandurah” not “Wearable Art Museum”.

I would like to bring to the attention of the house a very special local cultural event that was staged in Mandurah on the weekend of 15 and 16 June. The annual *Wearable Art Mandurah* took place across the city and Mandurah came to life with cultural activity. It was impossible not to know it was in town that weekend. Through wearable art, the community of Mandurah hears and embraces all voices, and artists and designers are provided with the opportunity to share their stories with the public. *Wearable Art Mandurah* had humble beginnings in 2011, when the inaugural event attracted 13 entries. This year, the event received around 100 entries from across Australia and overseas, including from New Zealand, the United States and Romania, with the final 43 entries on display this last weekend. This year’s showcase featured aspects that are unique to Mandurah, and it supports the aspiration for Mandurah to become known as a cultural city. The 2019 event focused on strong community and environmental values, and on the area’s connection to its Bindjareb heritage. *Wearable Art Mandurah* attracted entries from professional and amateur artists across many sections of the community. The sense of collaboration and connection between designers of all ages, abilities and backgrounds is a special aspect of the event. This year, for the first time, one of the costumes was modelled by Western Australian wheelchair athlete Nang Van Nguyen.

Mandurah became a hub of cultural activity with workshops, artist events and talks programmed across the weekend. This year, the West Australian Opera partnered with the event to present a spectacular performance onstage as part of the showcase. With artists travelling from as far as Romania and the eastern states to experience *Wearable Art Mandurah*, the event provided a memorable experience for all. I would like to congratulate event organisers and the City of Mandurah for a memorable event, which will continue with an exhibition at Contemporary Art Spaces Mandurah from 9 August to 22 September. I commend this event and many others in my wonderful city to the members present today.