

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS — PUT YOURSELF FORWARD CAMPAIGN

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Local Government) [12.18 pm]: Before I begin my brief ministerial statement, I acknowledge the guests from BPW Harvey, from the wonderful town of Harvey, who have joined us in the Speaker’s gallery. I welcome them on behalf of the member for Murray–Wellington.

Today, I launched a video campaign with the message “put yourself forward”. I am calling on people with diverse backgrounds and experiences to nominate to stand in the local government elections on 19 October. The 15-second video will run on commercial television, radio and social media and calls on people from all walks of life, including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal people, women, young people and people with a disability—those who might not normally be involved in local government—to nominate as candidates. The campaign is being run by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries in partnership with the Western Australian Local Government Association, the WA Electoral Commission and the Office of Multicultural Interests. The October 2019 local government elections are the first to be held since a series of local government reforms were recently passed by the WA Parliament. The changes include the requirement for all candidates to now undertake a mandatory online training course prior to the elections. The online candidate induction, along with more information for candidates and an election timetable are available on the website of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Western Australia has a very multicultural population with census figures showing that more than 240 languages, including Indigenous languages, are spoken in Western Australia. I believe that sort of diversity, knowledge and experience should be reflected in the local governments we elect. The aim of this campaign is to try to ensure that local governments more accurately reflect the communities they serve. The greater the diversity of our elected members, the greater the contribution to a higher standard of community representation, and the effective governance that communities deserve.