

ARTILLERY DRILL HALL — FREO.SOCIAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.15 pm]: I would like to inform the house of the reopening of the iconic Fremantle live music and performing arts venue, the Artillery Drill Hall, which is set to resume its status as a key contemporary music venue contributing to our rich cultural and social life, and the Western Australian economy. The state-registered Artillery Drill Hall in Holdsworth Street is owned by the National Trust and was once home to the Fly by Night Musicians Club, and played host to a who's who of local, national and international bands. It will now be reopened as Freo.Social after receiving much-needed improvements, including acoustic baffling and sound attenuation works to reduce noise emissions. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries contributed \$250 000 to ensure the venue's operation as a world-class live music venue, as part of the government's contemporary music fund election commitment.

The National Trust has managed and overseen these improvements in association with the new venue operator, Sunset Events. Other work undertaken by the trust included an overhaul of the venue to meet current building standards, including services upgrades and universal access compliance. These works cost in the order of \$1.5 million. The works will improve the venue's capacity to host concerts by local and touring acts and contribute to the thriving live music scene in Fremantle. The venue operators will place importance on staging local content, which will provide significant employment opportunities for Western Australian musicians. The lessee has invested an additional \$1.4 million in fit-out work to provide new bars, outdoor entertainment areas, and stage and sound equipment to make Freo.Social a 795-person capacity venue, with a 500-person capacity live music hall and a 295-person capacity external food and beverage area. The reopening of the Artillery Drill Hall is another example of how the McGowan Labor government's support for our contemporary music industry is delivering jobs, economic diversity and cultural benefits for the Western Australian community.