

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 16 February on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [3.33 pm]: Today I rise to speak in reply to the Premier and welcome everyone to the start of the parliamentary year of 2023. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the lands on which we meet and pay my respects to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation and to elders past, present and emerging. Parliament in 2023 has a different look this year compared with the last sitting week of 2022. Our cabinet has been reshuffled, ministers have resigned and new members have been elevated to cabinet.

I would like to acknowledge Dave Kelly, the member for Bassendean, and thank him for his work as the Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth and formerly holding the portfolios of Innovation and ICT; Science; Fisheries. Since the McGowan government was elected in 2017, the member has been a great supporter of Murray–Wellington and has made many important contributions to the state and has visited Murray–Wellington many times. We have shared many great moments in the Murray–Wellington electorate, including releasing juvenile marron into the Harvey Dam as part of the McGowan government's \$500 000 investment in stocking over 300 000 marron, and habitat enhancement projects. We have released trout into Drakesbrook Weir in Waroona as part of the annual Waroona Troutfest. This is another program by the McGowan government to create a more robust fish production program, improve fish stocking opportunities in the south west, identify new freshwater trout fishing locations, and create tourism and support local jobs in the south west. Together, the member for Bassendean and I have visited numerous communities, business owners and stakeholders in the region. Some visits included a meeting with the Preston Beach community group to address the community about the water supply in town. We met with many different logging and timber mill companies and listened to the voices surrounding the McGowan government's ban on native forest logging in the south west. Thank you, Dave Kelly, member for Bassendean, for all your support.

At the end of 2023, one of my mentors and highly respected members Hon Alannah MacTiernan, MLC, resigned after a stellar career in local, state and federal politics. When I was first elected in 2017, Alannah took me under her wing and has always been there for me when I have needed it. In Alannah's role as Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Ports; Hydrogen Industry she made many influential decisions that have resulted in positive change to the community members of Murray–Wellington. Alannah has visited my electorate of Murray–Wellington more times than I can remember, and I just want to share some special moments. There are too many to list today, so I will not go through them all.

Alannah's decision to implement the regional economic development grants in the state has had a huge impact on the regions, especially Murray–Wellington. Many recipients of the RED grants have invested in the electorate, which has boosted local jobs and capacity for production and has been responsible for companies evolving and growing at a faster pace. We have turned the sod for and opened many projects, including the Waroona town centre precinct; Peel Business Park; the Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia in Nambelup; Brunswick River Cottages men's shed; the Harvey Recreation and Cultural Centre; Australia's first renewable energy industrial microgrid, which is at Peel Business Park; Bedingfeld Park's new 25-bed wing dedicated to dementia patients; and the East Keralup landholding, just to name a few. We have toured and visited local businesses, community resource centres, tourist attractions, farms and other primary industries.

When Alannah MacTiernan announced her retirement, I was quite saddened about the news. I looked back and reflected on the many things we have done together in my short career and I cannot be thankful enough for the time she has given me, the people of Murray–Wellington and Western Australia in her roles. Over the years and getting to know the community, I learnt what Alannah meant for the community in the south west, not just from what she has achieved since the 2017 election, but also in her roles in previous governments over the years. One local Pinjarra business owner, Steve Coughlan, started up Murray Engineering in Pinjarra over 20 years ago. Alannah's advocacy and help in developing the business and helping the company start and grow has turned Murray Engineering into one of the most revered engineering companies in the mining industry and Western Australia. Murray Engineering is now one of the larger employers in the region and has a fantastic record of training new apprentices, doing its bit in the community and developing some of the best technology to reduce our carbon footprint and help mining become greener.

Each time we have been at a cafe or out and about, many people thank Alannah for her work in securing the Mandurah train line. Mandurah can be a bit of a drive for those in Murray–Wellington and many people in the community still rely on the train line.

In December, the Peel Development Commission and I hosted a farewell for Alannah at Edenvale Homestead in Pinjarra. We announced the fifth round of the regional economic development grants and thanked her for her contribution to the community. Past grant recipients; shire councillors, presidents and CEOs; members of the

community; primary producers; and business owners were in attendance to say thank you. I could go on about the impact Alannah has had on the community, and I am sure many members of this chamber will have stories to add about her legacy in not only Parliament, but also their personal lives, but I will finish by thanking her again for being a mentor, a great minister and most of all a good friend.

Over the summer, while Parliament was shut, many wonderful things happened in Murray–Wellington, Peel and the south west. Round 5 of the RED grants were announced. I want to congratulate the recipients: Shift Engineering, the Exchange Hotel in Pinjarra, Dwellingup Adventures, Jacaranda Hill Farm and Accommodation, and Harvey Hemp. The recipients have great projects and plans for the grants that will help boost jobs and tourism in the electorate.

I also attended many graduations and award ceremonies at schools. I congratulate all the graduating students and award winners, and wish the best to all those who started school in February. The \$11.23 million performing arts centre and sports hall at Pinjarra Senior High School is almost completed. I know the local schools, including Pinjarra Senior High School, look forward to holding their prospective graduations at the new facility in 2023.

We had National Volunteer Week celebrations and events to thank all the selfless volunteers in the regions. I attended the Peel volunteer awards ceremony at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. I would like to congratulate Andrew Seaman for winning the Peel youth volunteer of the year award and Compassionate Friends WA for winning the Peel community group of the year. Compassionate Friends has an op shop in Barragup in my electorate. Congratulations go to my friend Coral Richards for winning the Peel volunteer of the year. During volunteer week, my team and I visited the new Pinjarra Women’s Centre, which is run by OVIS Community Services. The centre had an open day to showcase to the community the wonderful things it does to assist women in the region.

The Ravenswood Community Group hosted its annual Christmas party. It was the last one to be held in the park, as the community will be able to celebrate Christmas this year in the new \$1.3 million Ravenswood Community Centre, which the McGowan government is delivering as part of our 2021 election promise.

My office and I facilitated a back-to-school drive to encourage the community to donate school stationery to assist students returning to school. We are now running a dress drive in collaboration with Soroptimist International of Mandurah to encourage people to donate ball dresses for students about to participate in their year 12 balls.

Many projects started in the region over the summer. The Shire of Murray received \$478 113 for the extension of the floating jetties and a new universal-access path at the Wharf Cove boating facility in South Yunderup. The Leschenault Men’s Shed received a Lotterywest grant of \$366 878 in addition to the \$50 000 election commitment by the McGowan Labor government to extend its shed. The Winjan Aboriginal Corporation will receive a massive \$800 000 over two years to put towards the Winjan Bindjareb Boodja ranger program. The City of Mandurah received a funding boost to put towards new boating facilities, with \$150 000 for upgrades to the boat ramp concrete slabs at the Park Ridge boating facility in Bouvard, which is part of my electorate. The Harvey Brunswick Leschenault Football and Netball Clubs will benefit from the \$449 907 given to the Shire of Harvey to upgrade the floodlighting at Brunswick Oval.

Along with the projects that have been funded, I also had the pleasure of attending the opening of some great community projects. I recently attended the opening of the new South West Aboriginal Medical Service aged-care centre in Mandurah with Senator Sue Lines and member for Dawesville, Lisa Munday. The SWAMS centre will be the first Aboriginal community-controlled aged-care service anywhere in the greater Perth metropolitan region. I also had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Planning, Rita Saffioti, at the opening of The Promenade in Australind. The Promenade, known as the Kingston Drive extension, is a road that has been highly anticipated for over 20 years. Local business owners in the Australind light industrial area bought into the area with the promise of the road being built for easy access to their businesses, but there was no progress for 20 years.

In January 2020, my office received a call from Neil Espinos, “Esso”, the owner of Australind Tyre Service. He was extremely frustrated by the promises from and lack of action by the Shire of Harvey. Since that call, I have advocated to the shire, Main Roads and the minister’s office, with the assistance of local business owners and the community. Eventually, the advocacy paid off, and the missing link between Paris Road and Ditchingham Place has finally been connected. The McGowan government supported this important project with \$1.74 million, which represents two-thirds of the total project cost of approximately \$2.5 million. Projects like this, even though they may seem small—in total it was about 700 metres—can mean a lot. This thoroughfare alleviates traffic on Paris Road and cuts the commute time by kilometres for the local community.

Over the summer, I was constantly reminded about how great the communities in Murray–Wellington are. I attended numerous community events but two stuck out. The first event was Ahlia’s Blue Stumps Day, which was held by the Leschenault Cricket Club to honour her and raise money for RUN DIPG. The event raised over \$8 500, which will go towards the foundation to find a cure for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma. This horrible disease is the most aggressive of all childhood cancers, with approximately 20 children in Australia diagnosed every year. The two-year survival rate of children diagnosed with DIPG is a devastating 10 per cent. I recently found out that another child in Australind had been diagnosed with this cancer.

The second event was another fundraiser—this time at the Harvey Bowling Club. On 25 and 26 January, over the Australia Day holiday, the Harvey Bowling Club hosted a 24-hour bowlathon to support eight-year-old Ariella, who has a rare genetic condition. She is currently the only known case in the country of TBC1D24, with only 100 reported cases in the world. The event rallied the community together and raised between \$20 000 and \$25 000, which will go to the TBC1D24 Foundation.

These two events over the last two months give a small insight into the selflessness of the Murray–Wellington community. It makes me extremely proud to represent each and every one of them in this chamber.

I also congratulate all the winners at the recent Australia Day award ceremonies held across Murray–Wellington hosted by the Shires of Harvey, Murray and Waroona. The 2023 Shire of Waroona meritorious community service award—under 25 years went to Matthew Della Franca; the meritorious community service award—25 years and over went to Debra Tyler and Lynette Della Franca; the award for active citizenship—community group or event went to the Waroona Community Men’s Shed; the senior Australia Day citizen of the year was Marion Herkes; and the Australia Day WA citizen of the year award went to Jenny McNamara.

The Shire of Murray Australia Day citizen of the year award 2023 went to Trevor Delaporte; the Australia Day citizen of the year award youth went to Noah Tippet from Murray Youth for Youth; the Australia Day citizen of the year award senior went to Carl Duxbury from the Murray District Rangers Soccer Club; and the Australia Day citizen of the year award group went to the Pinjarra Community Men’s Shed.

The Shire of Harvey community citizen of the year award went to Greg Campbell of Australind, Bill Russell of Harvey, Karen McCarthy of Leschenault and Lyndon Edwards of Brunswick. The active citizenship award for groups or events went to the Brunswick Junction Men’s Shed. The senior community citizen of the year award went to Gillian Dober of Australind and Colin Beauchamp of Cookernup. The Rotary Club of Harvey courtesy award went to Pauline Burgess from Harvey Fish and Chips.

Interestingly, our men’s sheds in all three shires—Pinjarra, Waroona and Brunswick—were award recipients for the fabulous work that they carry out in our community. They are not only men’s sheds; they bring in the wider community for ongoing projects and support. Congratulations to all the recipients of those awards, our community is better off having you all as a part of it.

In the few short weeks of 2023, Murray–Wellington has already had some influential people of the world visit. Last week, I had the honour of meeting the US Ambassador to Australia, Caroline Kennedy. Caroline is the daughter of former US President John F. Kennedy. With the ambassador was United States Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. Secretary Haaland made history when she became the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and a thirty-fifth generation New Mexican. Secretary Haaland was in Perth to highlight the importance of Indigenous knowledge, collaborative conservation and international partnerships to inform the global effort to fight the climate crisis.

The visit to the Bushfire Centre of Excellence was monumental. It showcases to the world how important the McGowan government’s \$33.16 million investment into the facility was. The centre in Nambeelup brings together the best research and training in bushfire management, including cultural fire practices. The centre is the first of its kind in Australia. The visit from Secretary Haaland and Ambassador Kennedy shows that our project is leading the way for other countries to follow.

If the last few weeks have been anything to go by, 2023 is going to be another fantastic year ahead for Murray–Wellington. The McGowan government’s election commitments are funded and underway. The Ravenswood community centre is underway, with the kit-style facility currently being built at a warehouse in Kwinana. Projects like this have massive support from the local communities. I would like to thank the community for its support and for getting behind this project.

Road safety has been a high priority for the McGowan government, with its \$5 million investment into building acceleration lanes heading north on Forrest Highway.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE: That will service the towns of Preston Beach, Binningup, Myalup and Harvey. Planning is complete and the process of marking out has occurred, with completion expected in early 2024.

Tourism and community activation is also vital to regional communities, so I am pleased to say that planning for the Waroona town centre revitalisation project has begun, with the first few stages expected to be finished by next year. This Friday, I look forward to joining the Minister for Regional Development, Don Punch, and the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Jackie Jarvis, with Hon Alannah MacTiernan to attend the opening of the new Food Innovation Precinct Western Australia centre in Nambeelup. It has received a \$14.5 million investment from the McGowan Labor government towards the fit-out of the food technology facility and towards an enterprise support program to stimulate activity. Situated in Peel Business Park, an hour south of Perth in Nambeelup, FIPWA

was conceived as a contributing factor to the region's strategic goals of creating new industries, more jobs and a better quality of life through innovation for the people in the Peel region. Its purpose is to deliver socio-economic transformation and commercialisation in WA. It will scale up WA agrifood and tech businesses, commercialise research and development, develop new agrifood technology, and contribute to industry innovation, growth and exports through value-added activities while strengthening the domestic supply chain. Once open and fully functioning, there will likely be 57 full-time equivalent direct ongoing jobs, with an additional estimated 26 full-time equivalent jobs through flow-on supply chain effects.

We are now halfway through our second term and I cannot say how grateful the community of Murray–Wellington has been for the significant investment in the electorate. We are making safe and strong communities, with road upgrades, school investments, tourism, job-creation projects and vital infrastructure. I look forward to continued growth in 2023–24 and being the best representative to deliver for the community of Murray–Wellington. I wish everyone in the chamber and Murray–Wellington a prosperous and safe 2023.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.