

**LAND RELEASE — REGIONS**

*Statement by Minister for Lands*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [9.17 am]: I rise to inform the house of two significant developments that underscore our government's dedication to enhancing the lives of regional communities in Western Australia. Firstly, the state government has taken a substantial step to breathe new life into South Hedland by transferring two lots in Kennedy Street over to the Town of Port Hedland —

**Mr K.J.J. Michel:** Hear, hear!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** On cue, the member says, "Hear, hear!"

These lots were previously leased to the Town of Port Hedland for the Marquee waterpark development, and now they will be repurposed for a new play space precinct and a dog recreation area. This transformation reflects community need and will revitalise the area. We are committed to unlocking government land for developments that truly benefit regional communities, and this transfer is an exciting development. I want to recognise the local member for his advocacy for the area.

Secondly, we have approved a 1 012 square metre land transfer to support an early childhood learning centre on McNeill Street, Dalwallinu. This purpose-built facility that co-locates the town's early learning centre, toy library and playgroup has significantly increased its operations. It now offers more places for children, which means more parents can re-enter the local workforce, thereby bolstering the local economy. We believe that supporting early childhood education and care centres is a critical step toward improving education and social outcomes for young children and their families in regional communities. These developments reflect our genuine and serious commitment to collaborating with regional local governments and making government land available for projects that truly make a difference in the lives of Western Australians. As Minister for Lands, I will always work to enhance our regional communities.