

**PERTH CBD REVITALISATION**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Local Government)** [12.08 pm]: I rise to update the house on the state government's commitment to revitalising Perth's CBD and Northbridge. We are boosting vibrancy and activity throughout the city by funding a \$4 million CBD revitalisation program as part of the government's broader \$12 million package to increase foot traffic and reconnect Perth city. With two rounds of grants already provided, the Perth CBD and Northbridge have experienced a resurgence of energy and activity. Events included markets, festivals, artistic performances and light shows, making the city more vibrant and attractive than ever before. The response to the third round of grants has been overwhelming. In this round, a total of \$958 540 in funding has been awarded to 15 successful applicants. The funding provided through this program will continue to support local businesses, promote tourism and create more job opportunities for Western Australians. It is an investment in our city's future and we are committed to ensuring its success.

Recent data highlights that the Perth CBD office occupancy rates have hit 80 per cent of pre-COVID levels, with workers returning to the city faster than in any other capital city. The success of this program is about the power of investing in the heart of Perth and our city.

Although attendance figures from the first two funding rounds of the CBD revitalisation grant program are still coming in, current data shows that an estimated 200 000 people attended the first 21 activations. Evaluation data also indicates that the funding has leveraged \$2.11 in event investment for every dollar in grant funding awarded in round 1. The data for round 1 also indicates that around \$60 was spent in our city for every event visitor or participant. This indicates that the \$1.3 million in grant funding in round 1 delivered an estimated economic stimulus of \$12 million, supporting local jobs and small businesses.

The results are clear. The McGowan government's investment in our city has delivered significant economic benefit to local businesses, while also encouraging people to get back out there and enjoy social, community and arts events. This is a fantastic result for our city. The round 3 events will bring in even more people. As Minister for Local Government, I am excited about making our city more attractive, accessible and dynamic, and I look forward to the several more events to come over the next few months.