

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — KING’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government) [9.12 am]: Today I rise to acknowledge the achievements of many distinguished Western Australians recognised in the 2023 King’s Birthday honours list for their service to local government. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate former member for Kimberley Carol Martin, who received an Order of Australia medal in the General Division for her services to the WA Parliament and to the Indigenous community. As members would be aware, Carol Martin was the first Aboriginal woman elected to an Australian Parliament. I am pleased that since her election to this place in 2001, many other Aboriginal women have followed in her footsteps. Carol has a strong commitment to her electorate in the Kimberley, which was acknowledged by her community at three elections. Before her journey as a member of Parliament, Carol was a shire councillor representing the Shire of Derby–West Kimberley and was a former social worker, trainer and counsellor.

I would also like to recognise Councillor Karen Chappel for her award as a Member of the Order of Australia in the General Division for her significant service to local government and to the community of Morawa. Councillor Chappel has served at the Shire of Morawa as a councillor since 2005 and has been the shire president for the last 14 years. Last year, Councillor Chappel was elected as the president of the WA Local Government Association, where she is a life member. Councillor Chappel has served on the Local Government Advisory Board and several other boards and committees. I know that Councillor Chappel is focused on finding practical solutions to issues; for instance, I am aware that she worked closely with the previous Minister for Local Government to deliver recent reforms in relation to local government procurement of general practice services in rural communities. From my experience as a WALGA state councillor, I have seen how Councillor Chappel is widely renowned as a mentor and leader across the sector in Western Australia. This year’s awards recognise several other Western Australians for their involvement in local government. This includes Kelly Howlett for her significant service to the community of the Town of Port Hedland; Nick Catania, a former member for Balcatta and former Mayor of the Town of Vincent; and Wendy Williams for her service to the Shire of Goomalling. I am sure all members will join with me in congratulating all recipients on their achievements.