

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT — CBD REVITALISATION GRANT PROGRAM**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Local Government)** [9.12 am]: In July last year, our government committed \$12 million to support our city to bounce back from the disruption of the pandemic. This package included a \$4 million CBD revitalisation grant program designed to provide grants of up to \$100 000 to enable a diverse range of events to bring foot traffic back to Perth, Northbridge, East Perth, and West Perth. The program was designed to support a wide range of events, including activating empty and unused buildings in our city, and ran from September 2022 until mid-2023.

In total, the Department of Local Government, Sport, and Cultural Industries has administered 55 grants for completed events or activations supported by the program. A huge range of activations were supported through the program, including ARTRAGE, Liberty Fringe, Jennifer Rossen’s incredible Christmas sand sculpture at Elizabeth Quay, and last year’s Telethon Family Festival.

I was thrilled to attend the Pickle District 4.0 Outback Art Crawl back in September, to see the incredible installations installed during a trial in West Perth. It brought a huge number of visitors into our city on a bustling Friday evening. People can still see the installation of some traffic cones opposite City West in West Perth. Even this morning, on the way in, they are still there. It is very good.

The DLGSC recently completed an evaluation report for the events delivered by the program. Results from the grant recipients’ reports indicate a remarkable result for our city. Events and activations supported by the program attracted 466 000 attendees, who spent an average of \$56 each, injecting around \$26 million into our local economy. Almost 3 500 businesses and organisations were supported through this spending. On average, attendees spent 3.7 hours in the city attending an activation. Foot traffic data provided by the City of Perth further indicated that pedestrian traffic was up more than 30 per cent in February 2023, compared with the same period the year before. By supporting a very diverse range of events, there have been many reasons to visit and explore our city over the last year. I recognise all the people who have contributed to this success, including the event organisers and volunteers, the team at the department, and everyone who took the opportunity to visit our city to participate in an activation or event. I also recognise and thank the City of Perth for its part in helping to enable and facilitate many of these great events.

The success of the CBD revitalisation grant program demonstrates our government’s commitment to supporting local businesses and local jobs, including through events that bring our community together. I am proud that we supported our city to bounce back from the uncertainty and disruption of the pandemic.