

WHITFORDS VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE GROUP

Statement by Member for Joondalup

MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [12.55 pm]: I rise today to pay tribute to one of the volunteer groups in the northern suburbs; namely, the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group. This group has been operating for nearly 34 years and, to its credit, it still has some of its original members. Ken Blackie is one such member. Over its 34 years, the group has rescued on average one boat a day every day of the year. In the past 12 to 18 months, the group has had difficulties coming to terms with the regulations in the new Fire and Emergency Services Authority legislation. It has been negotiating with FESA for a service level agreement. To its credit, the group has managed to overcome many obstacles and, together with the Fremantle and Cockburn sea rescue groups, it has managed to come to an agreement with FESA and is in a position to sign a service level agreement, which we should see on Saturday. I thank Roger Howell, the commodore of the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group; Fab Zanuttigh, the immediate past commodore; Kerry Fitzgerald from the Fremantle Volunteer Sea Rescue group; and Mike Graham from the Cockburn Volunteer Sea Search and Rescue group. Thanks to these groups and their ongoing volunteerism, we will have successful sea operations from Alkimos in the north to the Kwinana grain terminal in the south for the next 20 or 30 years.