

ACHIM BURMEISTER, OAM
CHRISTINE NICOL-BURMEISTER, OAM

Statement by Member for Southern River

MR P. ABETZ (Southern River) [12.58 pm]: I rise today to give honour and public recognition to Mr Achim Burmeister, OAM, and Mrs Christine Nicol-Burmeister, OAM. Mr Achim Burmeister has been actively involved in the West Australian–German Business Association since its inception in 1985. He has served as secretary at various times and, more recently, as chief executive officer, a semi-honorary position. His consistent effort over more than 30 years, always supported by his wife, Christine, has given WAGBA—the only Western Australian–German business and cultural association promoting ties between the two countries—a very strong presence. They have earned respect from all sides of politics. They are great networkers and communicators not only through their German language newspaper, *Treffpunkt*, but also by their active role in all things German in the community, including organising the In Unison festivals. As Achim steps down at the end of this month from the role of CEO of WAGBA, I want to put on record both his and Christine’s amazing and selfless contribution to both WA and the German communities in our state, and for fostering business ties between the two. Achim’s cheeky sense of humour, coupled with his and Christine’s excellent organising skills and attention to detail, always made WAGBA functions entertaining, while accomplishing their objectives of providing great networking opportunities for business and for maintaining friendships. As a team, Achim and Christine have had a wonderful and powerful influence on Western Australian and German relations and I wish them well as they plan to take things a little easier from the end of this month.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm