

HON TOM STEPHENS, CARNARVON ELECTORATE OFFICE

Statement by Member for Ningaloo

MR R.N. SWEETMAN (Ningaloo) [12.56 pm]: I rise to recognise one of my parliamentary colleagues in the other House. We too rarely give credit to our parliamentary colleagues. I want the House to consider the exploits and the rare genius displayed by Hon Tom Stephens in opening an electorate office in my home town of Carnarvon. It is indeed a privilege for a rural community to have an electorate office when one considers the number of offices members of the upper House have compared with members of the lower House. Carnarvon feels doubly privileged, by virtue of the taxpayers of Western Australia, to have another electorate office - or I should say campaign office - in Carnarvon.

The first thing I said, when I was asked for my thoughts on Hon Tom Stephens' opening an electorate office in Carnarvon, was, "Thank you, God." I want to send a whole lot of constituents from Carnarvon to Hon Tom Stephens, because I am sick of trying to explain to them the difficulties involved in getting even the most basic consideration from this Government. I can now refer those people to a member of Cabinet. Rather than ridicule or belittle the efforts of Hon Tom Stephens, I congratulate him for coming to Carnarvon to share some of the significant issues that I try to wade through day in and day out in my home town of Carnarvon.

I spare a thought for the communities in Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Cue and Exmouth. I am sure that if Hon Tom Stephens had asked them whether he could set up an electorate office in one of those communities, they would have dipped into their own pockets to share in the cost.