

JOAN BUTTON

Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the National Party) [12.51 pm]: I rise to inform the house of a humbling opportunity I had on 25 August to present the title of Honorary Freeman to Mrs Joan Button on behalf of the Shire of Tammin. Joan has dedicated her life to the Tammin community. She is only the second person to receive such an acknowledgement in the shire's 118-year settlement history. People describe Joan as a selfless community leader who engages with and encourages others to get the job done. Joan has worked tirelessly as the school librarian for many years. She has been an active office-bearer and playing member of the Tammin Golf Club for many years. She spent 13 years as a shire councillor, eight of which she served as shire president. She has been instrumental in delivering many projects, including Tamma Village aged housing for the community, the first of its kind, through her 25 years on the Tammin Senior Citizens Committee. She plays an active role at the Tammin Enterprise and Visitor Centre and has been an extraordinarily long-serving community contributor to the district's sporting history, playing and umpiring across several sporting codes for 30 years. Volunteering is the lifeblood of regional communities, and Joan has generously committed her time to benefit those around her. She is an inspiring woman, having invested much into her community. I can think of no better recognition than that of Honorary Freeman of the Shire of Tammin, and I congratulate Joan and the Tammin shire council for this acknowledgement of her hard work over many years.