

**FESTIVAL OF THE SEA, ALBANY**

*Statement*

**HON MATT BENSON-LIDHOLM (South West)** [9.44 pm]: On Easter Saturday it was my pleasure to attend the inaugural Festival of the Sea held at the Albany *Duyfken* Boatshed on the shores of the beautiful Princess Royal Harbour. The event was an outstanding success and is sure to be part of any future Easter festivities on the south coast. The festival was opened by the Minister for Fisheries, who spoke of the great maritime traditions of the south coast focussing on Indigenous fishing, European whaling and commercial and recreational fishing to the present day. The member for Albany, the minister and a number of local identities then gave a demonstration together of what can only be described as a variety of rowing skills aboard a local restored whaling boat.

Getting back to the event at hand, on the day some thousands of locals and holidaymakers sampled a range of piscatorial pleasures, including Australian salmon and herring, smoked saltwater trout, mussels and oysters. The food was complemented by some of the best great southern wines and beers, while local musicians and entertainers kept revellers in good spirits. Photographic displays and historical information told visitors of the significance of the sea in relation to Albany's development over the years. However, events such as Albany's Festival of the Sea do not just happen. The success of the inaugural festival was due to many hardworking locals. I acknowledge the contributions of a number of these people, including Mr Clive Walker, Mr Mike Westerberg, Mr Nik Rolfe, Mr Lawrence Cuthbert, Ms Rachael Wilsher-Saa, Ms Trish Robinson, my research officer Mr Graeme McBeath, ABC Radio, Albany Community Radio, the many local sponsors and the board of the Albany Maritime Foundation. Their collective efforts and those of many others ensured an outstanding day. With the success of the inaugural festival, I look forward with great confidence to 2009 and beyond.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 9.46 pm*

---