

**AGRICULTURAL SHOWS**

*Statement by Member for Greenough*

**MR J.P.D. EDWARDS** (Greenough) [12.55 pm]: I take this opportunity to highlight my attendance at three agricultural shows in my electorate in the past two months, in the towns of Mullewa and Northampton and in the Chapman Valley. I congratulate the committees and supporters in those communities for the effort and hard work they put in. The events provide an opportunity for local people to showcase their products, livestock and crafts. The products include olives, grapes, wine, wheat and livestock, including sheep and cattle. Machinery, ranging from cars through to trucks, headers and tractors was also on display. These shows reflect the wealth and diversity of the farming community and the local townships. In the past three or four years, it has been particularly difficult for some of those farming communities as a result of drought. However, people have made the effort to continue, and Mullewa continues to run - excuse the pun - the Mullewa Gift, which is similar to the Stawell Gift in Victoria; Chapman Valley its shearing competition; and Northampton its qualifying showjumping competition. Without the shows, country Western Australia would be a poorer place, and local farming communities would not have the opportunity to showcase their industry. Again, I congratulate those communities for continuing to give us agricultural shows.