

**NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK**

*Statement by Minister for Science*

**MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Science)** [9.08 am]: Before I make my brief ministerial statement, as the member for Bassendean, I also pay tribute to Pat Giles, former senator. She was a cherished member of not only her local community, but also the broader labour movement, in particular for her contribution to promoting the role of women in our community.

I rise today to advise the house that this evening I will be attending the Western Australian launch of National Science Week. National Science Week is a national celebration of all things science and technology and all Western Australians have an opportunity to join in. Over 250 events will be happening right across the state in universities, science centres, museums, cinemas, schools, shopping centres and the great outdoors. As part of the festivities on Monday night, the Premier will announce the winners of the Premier's Science Awards. These annual awards highlight the fantastic work of the state's scientists and outreach activities. I would like to congratulate all the finalists. The centrepiece of National Science Week in Western Australia is the Perth Science Festival, which is taking place this weekend at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The festival is free and will have over 40 interactive stalls and amazing science shows. The festival has moved indoors and is a great place for people of all ages to be thrilled by science and escape the very welcome wet weather.

Western Australia is a world leader in many areas of science, including radioastronomy and space, digital technology and data, agriculture, resources and the environment. We need to build on our world-leading expertise and expand our scientific literacy and engagement across the community. The jobs of the future will require science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills and this government has established a STEM advisory panel, will develop a state STEM strategy and will provide \$17 million to roll out science programs in primary schools. I encourage all Western Australians to join in the festivities. Western Australians can find out the details of events happening right across the state and online by visiting the National Science Week website.