

MARGARET COCKMAN, OAM — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Early Childhood Education

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Early Childhood Education) [12.32 pm]: I rise to pay tribute to Margaret Cockman, OAM, who passed away on 26 July 2023 at the age of 92. Margaret lived her entire life in Wanneroo. She was born on 13 April 1931 as a proud descendant of one of Wanneroo's founding families. Margaret was the great-granddaughter of James and Mary Ann Cockman, who settled in Wanneroo in the 1850s. Margaret's ancestral home, Cockman House, built in 1860, now stands as a museum and is the oldest house in Wanneroo.

In 1946, Margaret began her 50-year career in local government at the Wanneroo Roads Board. Margaret's long service spanned the Wanneroo Roads Board becoming the Shire of Wanneroo in 1961 and, eventually, the City of Wanneroo in 1985. Margaret's five decades of service in local government saw her witnessing every major development and project in the northern suburbs, including the development of the Joondalup city centre.

Of course, as important as her contributions in this professional capacity were, we especially honour her lifetime of voluntary service to our community—from serving as the secretary of St John's Wanneroo branch; helping establish the Wanneroo branch of the Country Women's Association; serving as co-founder, secretary and patron of the Wanneroo and Districts Historical Society; to serving on the Wanneroo Agricultural Society committee for over 70 years and so much more.

Margaret's lifetime of dedication to community service has been recognised through many honours, including the Order of Australia, the Centenary Medal and her status as a freeman of both the City of Wanneroo and the City of Joondalup. Although her beloved Margaret Cockman Pavilion, which she brought to life at the Wanneroo Show each year, will never be the same, her legacy will continue.

She did not suffer fools, and we will miss her good humour, sense of fun and plain old hard work. I particularly will miss her advice and guidance in keeping me grounded. For all of us who serve, Margaret's commitment to community, generosity and selflessness will continue to be an inspiration. From all of us who have benefited from her extraordinary contributions to our community, I say thank you.

On behalf of the state government—in particular, the member for Joondalup, the member for Kingsley, the member for Burns Beach, the member for Butler, the member for Mirrabooka and the member for Landsdale—I extend our deepest condolences to Margaret's family and friends.

Vale, Margaret Cockman.