

ALAN BRIEN — RETIREMENT

Statement by Minister for Science

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Science) [9.14 am]: I rise today to acknowledge the recent announcement that Mr Alan Brien, the chief executive officer of Scitech, is retiring after 17 years in the role. Scitech is one of Western Australia's most loved institutions. For 28 years it has been educating and inspiring children about the wonder of science, and for 17 of those years Alan has been at the helm, guiding Scitech to be one of the world's leading science centres. Under Alan's leadership, Scitech has grown and developed enormously. More than 300 000 visitors are welcomed to Scitech each year. Scitech runs a fantastic outreach program to WA schools in all corners of our vast state. Scitech has not only made its mark here in WA, but also extended its reach beyond our shores with its world-class exhibitions travelling the globe. Scitech would not have built its outstanding reputation without Alan's leadership. His commitment and passion underpin all that Scitech does, and it goes without saying that he will be extremely hard to replace.

Alan has kindly agreed to remain in the role until a replacement is found. This search for a new CEO is all the more critical given the government's commitment to relocate Scitech to Education Central. Scitech will take its place in the heart of the city, co-located with an academic select school in a state-of-the-art building. The new CEO will play a critical role in managing Scitech's move to Education Central and maximising the opportunities that the move will provide to Scitech. Alan may well be hoping that the Scitech board finds his replacement soon as I know he has many plans for retirement. It therefore remains for me, on behalf of the state government, to wish him the very best in his retirement and to thank him again for his many years of service.