

WATER CORPORATION CEO — SUE MURPHY — RESIGNATION

Statement by Minister for Water

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Water) [2.10 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to Water Corporation's chief executive officer, Sue Murphy, whose retirement from the corporation will take place at the end of next month. Sue was appointed CEO in November 2008. She is only the second person to fill the role since the Water Corporation was first established in January 1996. Sue has been a trailblazer since the beginning of her career. When she went to university to study engineering, she was one of just two women out of 300 students. In the water industry she has shown outstanding leadership and become a great role model for younger women looking to make their mark in this male-dominated industry. Earlier this year, I travelled with Sue to Singapore for the International Water Week Water Leaders Summit. Wherever we went, someone knew Sue. She is renowned for her leadership and forward thinking, not just in WA, but throughout the world. Sue's influence has contributed to the Water Corporation's growing reputation as a world leader in planning water services in response to climate change, which is affecting many parts of the world.

Sue's lasting legacy will be her leadership in securing Western Australia's water supplies in the face of climate change. The enormous impact of climate change in WA has completely reshaped how we supply water to each and every household in this state. When Sue first began her career with the Water Corporation, our water came from groundwater and dams filled from rainfall. Today, it is a very different story. Almost half of our water is engineered by desalinating Indian Ocean water and pumping it to households throughout the state. One of Sue's significant achievements was the doubling of the capacity at the Binningup desalination plant in 2011, pushing desalination's total contribution to almost half of Perth's water supply. Binningup set new standards in desalination, including a world benchmark for energy efficiency, and deservedly won a string of state, national and international industry awards. Sue has also helped deliver Australia's first groundwater replenishment scheme, which is the new frontier in our fight to secure future water supplies in the face of climate change. As Minister for Water, I have appreciated that her focus has been not solely on infrastructure delivery and development, but also reducing per capita use of water to help sustain supply. On behalf of the government, I thank Sue for her commitment and contribution to the water industry and the community of Western Australia. I wish her well into the future.