

**SURF LIFE SAVING WESTERN AUSTRALIA COASTAL BRAVERY AWARD — RAY WORRALL**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [1.19 pm]: On 30 April 2021, a small pleasure yacht with four adults and an 11-year-old girl on board capsized in treacherous waters near Whitlock Island, 2.5 kilometres off Jurien Bay. An emergency position indicating radio beacon activation was detected by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Supervising fisheries and marine officer Ray Worrall from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development was based in Jurien at the time and had just commenced a period of time off when he received a call to assist local marine rescue volunteers with a response. Officer Worrall returned to duty and launched the fisheries patrol vessel *Lesueur*, with support from marine rescue volunteers. Working with the AMSA search plane, Officer Worrall and his team were able to locate three of the crew from the capsized vessel. The three injured crew were returned to the mainland, where medical assistance was provided.

Officer Worrall was alerted that the 11-year-old girl and her father were still missing and returned to the search area in treacherous conditions. His vessel was the smallest of the rescue fleet and was completely submerged under waves on several occasions. In spite of the conditions, Officer Worrall was instrumental in coordinating the search effort, acting as the on-scene controller and coordinating four other search vessels, while also searching the area himself. The search continued for three hours before successfully locating the missing girl and her father, who were taken for treatment by staff from the attending emergency helicopter.

The selfless actions and composure of Officer Worrall in dangerous conditions was a lifesaving action for the five people on board the pleasure yacht. It was therefore extremely pleasing to see Officer Worrall presented with the Gold Medallion for Exceptional Bravery at the 2023 Surf Life Saving Western Australia Coastal Bravery Awards. This is the highest honour awarded to any person who performs a conspicuous and selfless act of exceptional bravery in circumstances of extreme peril. I take this opportunity to offer my congratulations to Ray Worrall and others who played an important role on the day, including officers at the water police control centre, AMSA, commercial operators and the volunteers from the Marine Rescue Jurien Bay group.