

**TERRORIST ATTACK — SARI CLUB, BALI — ANNIVERSARY —
KINGSLEY AMATEUR FOOTBALL CLUB**

Statement

HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan) [5.40 pm]: I rise to make mention of an event that has been marked today, but has largely gone unremarked. Fifteen years ago this evening on the idyllic island of Bali, an event took place whose reverberations shook the foundations of the close knit community of Kingsley in Perth's northern suburbs. Inside the Sari Club that night were members of the Kingsley Amateur Football Club enjoying their end-of-season football celebrations, sharing time with their club mates and with young people from many nations. Unbeknownst to them, their lives were very shortly to change forever. A suicide bomber detonated a bomb in Paddy's Pub outside the Sari Club. There were two other explosions that took the lives of more than 200 people, including many Balinese people. Eighty-eight Australians, among them seventeen Western Australians, lost their lives. This cowardly attack claimed more Australian lives in one single terrorist act than any other act committed prior or since. Many more were grievously injured and continue to live with their wounds both in body and mind.

As to its immediate impact, then Premier, Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, said —

On the night of Saturday, 12 October 2002, the world changed for all Western Australians as a result of a cowardly bomb attack that shattered the tranquillity of a favourite holiday destination for many generations of Australians ... None of us can underestimate the extent to which the event will affect our community in the days ahead

Those well-measured words still resonate today.

I wish to use this occasion to commemorate the loss of innocent lives, to convey our condolences to the families and friends of the departed who still hold dear the loss of their beloved, and to tell those survivors, whose memories I suspect will never be completely untethered from the grim and terrifying scenes of that night, that they will continue to have our support in however small or large measure they need and for however long they need it. While we cannot walk in your shoes, we can and will walk alongside you. These inadequate words, I hope, go some way to encompass the humane and decent sentiment that resides within all members of this chamber.

I want to pay my respects in particular to the seven young men from the Kingsley Amateur Football Club who were lost. To their friends and families, and the club itself, I proffer my very humble condolences and I note that they will gather this evening to commemorate their memory in a small and dignified ceremony at 6.30 pm. The men lost were Dean Gallagher, Byron Hancock, Corey Paltridge, Anthony Stewart, Jason Stokes, David Ross and Jonathon Wade. I have mentioned their names tonight with the blessing of the club secretary so that they may be recorded in *Hansard*, the official and enduring memory of this place, but I do so also for another purpose and that is in some small measure to uphold their identity and their humanity that those murderers attempted to extinguish. We cannot let that occur. It is the very least that I and we can do to honour them.

In closing, I wish to quote Hon Cheryl Edwardes, the then Member for Kingsley, who said —

This has had the greatest consequence on the community and those team members who did not go to Bali for one reason or another. The Kingsley community, probably like many communities in times of tragedy, has united in a way that is absolutely overpowering in terms of support and kindness of spirit.

I make this statement as a small but important contribution to the memories of those senselessly taken away from their families and their community.