

HARRY STEAD — TRIBUTE

Statement

HON STEVE MARTIN (Agricultural) [8.44 pm]: I take this opportunity to offer my sincere condolences to the Stead family from Esperance. Between Christmas and New Year last year, there was a nasty fire in Esperance, and 20-year-old Harry Stead was fighting a fire west of Esperance. Tragically, he lost his life. There is a quote from the Minister for Agriculture and Food, which I think summed it up nicely. I do not want to use her words without having discussed it with her, but Hon Jackie Jarvis said —

Harry tragically lost his life doing what farmers do—stepping up to help a neighbour and volunteering to fight a fire.

That is exactly the case and, as I said, very sadly he made the ultimate sacrifice. It was a very tragic event, particularly for the Esperance community. It is a tragic event anywhere but given what Esperance has been through in the past seven or eight years, with a number of deaths related to fires in that district, I know it has hit that community hard. The locals are rallying around what is a very well known farming family, but it is almost impossible to imagine what they are going through. On behalf of all of us, I pass on our condolences to the Stead family.