

CHIEF SCIENTIST, PROFESSOR PETER KLINKEN — REAPPOINTMENT

Statement by Minister for Science

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Science) [2.14 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I rise today to announce that Professor Peter Klinken, AC, will continue his important role as the Chief Scientist of Western Australia for a further three-year term, through to June 2022.

As members will already know, Professor Klinken is highly regarded in academic and industry circles in Western Australia and has been a driving force in enhancing collaboration in the science and innovation sectors locally, nationally and internationally. Importantly, Professor Klinken has been instrumental in supporting the McGowan government's push for more Western Australians to develop the science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills that will be required for the jobs of the future. Professor Klinken's achievements in the role of Chief Scientist since he was first appointed in 2014 are far too numerous to list in the short time that I have available today. However, some recent successes include leading the STEM advisory panel, which assisted the government in developing a state STEM skills strategy; playing an active role in the development of the lithium and energy materials industry strategy; and raising the profile of Western Australia's space industry capabilities.

One significant task that I have given Professor Klinken to undertake early next year is the independent review of the Shark-Management-Alert-in-Real-Time drum lines trial at Gracetown and the personal shark deterrent rebate scheme to evaluate their effectiveness in reducing the risk of future shark attacks. I have utmost confidence that Professor Klinken, as both a leading scientist and a keen surfer, is best placed to provide that advice to government and certainly, his reappointment reinforces the value we place on his expertise. On a personal note, I am delighted that we have had the good fortune to secure Professor Klinken's services for a further term and look forward to continuing the lively and enlightening discussions that we regularly have on all things science and innovation.

I am sure that all members will join me in congratulating Professor Klinken on his reappointment.