

ERICA STARLING

Statement by Member for Greenough

MR J.P.D. EDWARDS (Greenough) [12.54 pm]: Erica Starling runs and manages her own company, which packages, distributes and sells tuna and swordfish. She is Geraldton-based and started her career in her family fishing business 11 years ago. She recently won the 2003 Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation's rural woman award.

Erica employs three other women in her company, which provides a service up and down the Western Australian coast and into South Australia. The RIRDC award recognises the capacity of women making a significant contribution to the growth and development of rural industries and communities.

Erica is an active member of industry groups focusing on sustainable management of the State's aquaculture resources through improved practices to minimise environmental impacts. She has a real commitment to the industry and has a vision for the future to guarantee that fish quality is matched to consumer requirements.

Through winning the award, Erica will have the opportunity to attend an Australian Institute of Company Directors course in Canberra. I congratulate Erica on her great achievement and recognise her role in furthering the growth and importance of the fishing industry to the State of Western Australia.