

DR BERNARD BOWEN — TRIBUTE

Statement by Minister for Fisheries

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Fisheries) [12.18 pm]: It is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Dr Bernard Bowen on 19 March 2019. Dr Bowen was renowned for being one of the country's finest science administrators, who presided over scientific advances ranging from the oceans to the skies in a career that spanned more than half a century. He was the Western Australian government's first marine scientist and spent 23 years at the helm of what was the then Department of Fisheries. Dr Bowen went on to become the deputy chair of the Western Australian Environmental Protection Authority between 1994 and 1997 and its chair between 1997 and 2003. As a result of his achievements in these roles, the state government asked him in 2005 to establish the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, of which he became the founding chair. Dr Bowen's passion for science was not limited to the marine environment. He was passionate about astronomy and was instrumental in the establishment of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, and was the chair of its board from 2009. In recognition of his contribution to science in the state, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1991, awarded an Australian Centenary Medal in 2003 and inducted into the Western Australian Science Hall of Fame in 2011. Dr Bowen will be remembered for his patience, negotiating skills and lifelong work in and commitment to supporting science in this state. The government sends its sincere condolences to his wife and family. Dr Bowen's accomplishments will benefit Western Australians for generations to come.