

**MAX KAY, OA — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts)** [3.09 pm]: It is with a very sad heart I rise to pay homage to Max Kay, OA, one Western Australia's cultural icons, who sadly passed away last week. Mr Kay arrived in Perth from Scotland in 1967, starting his career as lead vocalist in a rock'n'roll band. Max soon became one of Western Australia's most sought-after performers, supporting and performing with many top names in the entertainment industry. He went on to open the Civic Theatre in Inglewood and later Highgate, where he wrote, produced and performed in his own shows. The Civic Theatre was a successful Perth icon for 25 years, playing to over 1.5 million people and employing up to 100 people during the busy seasons, including stage performers, stage technicians, administration and sales staff, and food and beverage staff.

Max was awarded WA Citizen of the Year for the arts, culture and entertainment category in 2001, and in 2003 in recognition of his charity work and contribution to the City of Perth he was awarded an Order of Australia, AM, for services to the entertainment industry and for charitable works. In this same year he was also one of the 1 300 Western Australians to receive the Prime Minister's Centenary Medal. Max served on the Perth Theatre Trust board, initially as a City of Perth council representative from 2003 to 2007, where he served as a councillor for five years, and then for three consecutive terms in a ministerial appointment from May 2011 to December 2017. As an entrepreneur, performer and councillor he provided the board with professional insight and was a great support to both the staff and trustees. Mr Kay was also the president of the National Trust of Western Australia and board member of St Bartholomew's Foundation for the homeless, the Swan Bells Foundation, Curtin Radio 100.1 FM and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. He was also chairman of the council of the Sir David Brand School and patron of Camp Quality, Midnite Youth Theatre Company and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society of WA.

Max Kay was a remarkable Western Australian who made a tremendous contribution to the state's entertainment industry. Many, many generations of Western Australians will remember going to the Civic Theatre in Highgate and seeing Max and his troupe churning out show after show. The passing of Max is very sad and my thoughts go to his wife Norma and his family. A legend passes, but he has left us with some wonderful memories.

Vale Max Kay.