

AUSTRALIAN SAILING MUSEUM

Statement by Minister for Peel

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Peel) [12.09 pm]: I inform the house that the Australian Sailing Museum, incorporating the America's Cup Museum, was opened to the public on 7 April 2008 by the Governor General of Australia. The museum is located on the boardwalk at the gateway to the Mandurah Ocean Marina.

A major feature of the museum is the Rolly Tasker Collection, the first and only complete set of fine art illustrations of all the yachts that have sailed for the America's Cup through its history. The display also includes a scale model of each challenger and defender of the America's Cup since 1851; the history of the America's Cup; and life-size wax figures of famous skippers, owners, architects and commodores. This fantastic museum is a credit to the vision and energy of local resident Rolly Tasker and his wife, who own much of the sailing collection. Rolly is a member of Sport Australia Hall of Fame and is considered to be one of Australia's finest yachtsmen. His outstanding achievements include building his own boats, being Australia's first yachting Olympic medal winner and winning every race on the Western Australian yachting calendar more than once. He often set records in these races, some of which he still holds. Rolly became a Member of the Order of Australia in 2006 for his services to sailing.

The museum collection includes 132 scale models of each class of yacht to reach fleet status in Australia since 1861, the history of sailing in Australia, a sailing hall of fame, Olympic sailing heroes and many pieces of marine art. The complex also includes an alfresco cafe. Rolly Tasker's unique investment in Mandurah and the Peel region is a world-class facility that will attract visitors, not only yachtspersons. The museum is expected to bring many local, national and international visitors to Mandurah and the Peel region. I recommend to members that they make the trip to Mandurah, preferably by train, to visit the Australian Sailing Museum.