

## **SEAFOOD INDUSTRY AWARDS**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [12.09 pm]: I rise to brief the house on the Western Australian Seafood Industry Awards 2021. On Friday, 13 August, I had the pleasure of opening the annual Western Australian Seafood Industry Awards, hosted by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council at Fremantle's Esplanade Hotel. The awards are a keystone event, showcasing excellence and innovation in the state's commercial seafood industry and highlighting the contribution the industry makes to WA's economy and local communities.

The achievements and value of the state's seafood industry has also been acknowledged in the Australian Institute of Marine Science's *Index of marine industry*, considering WA as the foremost fishing state in Australia. Western Australia is a world leader in sustainable fisheries management, and the individual operators, teams and families in our seafood industry ought to be congratulated for their stewardship of WA fisheries and seafood products.

This year's awards were especially important as we continue to work through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with everyone in the industry being congratulated for their continued professionalism, commitment and ingenuity throughout the last 18 months. Award winners were named in twelve categories, which were open to all sectors of WA's seafood and fishing industry, including fishers, processors, exporters, fish wholesalers, retailers, aquaculture producers, media, restaurants and deckhands, as well as individuals and businesses involved in research, development, safety and training. Eleven of the 12 category winners will go on to represent WA at the National Seafood Industry Awards, which will be held in conjunction with the 2022 Seafood Directions Conference. I congratulate all the award winners and, in particular, recognise the winner of the prestigious Seafood Industry Leadership Award, Dr George Kailis. The contribution by George and the Kailis family to the WA seafood industry and their leadership over many years is truly something to be proud of.