

UNA COUPER — RETIREMENT

Statement by Attorney General

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [9.12 am]: I rise to acknowledge the significant contribution to the state of Western Australia by Ms Una Couper, who is retiring as Deputy Parliamentary Counsel in the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. Una has made an outstanding contribution to the Western Australian statute book during her more than 37 years in the public service. Una completed a Bachelor of Laws at the University of Western Australia in 1985 before starting as an articled clerk in what was then known as the Crown Law Department. Una began working at the Parliamentary Counsel's Office in December 1987 as an assistant parliamentary counsel. She was promoted to what is now a senior assistant parliamentary counsel position in 2005 and became Deputy Parliamentary Counsel in February 2018.

Una has drafted many important and complex items of legislation in many areas of the law during her career including the Children and Community Development Bill 2003, the Commissioner for Children and Young People Bill 2005, the Electricity Corporations Bill 2005, the Child Care Services Bill 2007, the Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2015, the Motor Vehicle (Catastrophic Injuries) Bill 2016, the Western Australian Jobs Bill 2017, the Constitutional and Electoral Legislation Amendment (Electoral Equality) Bill 2021 and the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill 2019. That is just to name a few. Over the years, Una has also drafted hundreds of items of subsidiary legislation. Una possesses exceptional skills as a legislative drafter, frequently displaying her ability to analyse complex legal and policy issues, and come up with constructive solutions. She is able to draft the most complex legislation clearly and concisely, and builds and maintains strong working relationships with her colleagues and instructors. Despite having a very stressful job, Una always remains calm under pressure. As Deputy Parliamentary Counsel, Una has also made a huge contribution to the leadership and management of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office. Una trained and mentored many junior drafters. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of the WA statute book and her exceptional drafting skills have meant that her advice has been frequently sought and always highly valued by PCO staff and people outside the Parliamentary Counsel's Office.

After such a long and challenging career, Una intends to enjoy spending time with her husband, Graeme, and her family, and undertake some overseas travel. On behalf of the government of Western Australia, I wish to sincerely thank Una for her outstanding service to the state and wish her a long and happy retirement. But I do hope that she can be enticed to undertake some drafting work from time to time. Thank you, Una.