

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES — RED PILLAR POSTBOXES
ALEX T. BROWN, YANCHEP SHIPWRECK

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.11 am]: It is appropriate that I am Minister for Heritage because we are about to see the demise of another Prime Minister!

Firstly, it gives me great pleasure to update members of the house on some recent developments within the heritage portfolio. On 25 July, I delivered the news that four of our state's cast iron red pillar postboxes had been added to the state Register of Heritage Places. These postboxes—one each from Bassendean and Busselton, and two from Kalgoorlie—are some of the last remaining of their kind in Western Australia that are still in use. They have affectionately been referred to as “much-loved community icons”. Much like you, Mr Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: For more than 120 years, they have served residents, businesses and visitors within their communities, connecting them to thousands of people throughout the state and, indeed, the world. All four boxes symbolise the growth of the state's postal system, as well as the once-common practice of manufacturing postboxes in cast iron. I would like to thank everyone who has championed their listing.

Secondly, on 31 July, I announced that the wreck of the *Alex T. Brown*, near Yanchep, is now protected by a conservation order. Protection measures were necessary after sections of the hull ribs were sawn off with a chainsaw last year. The *Alex T. Brown* was a 788-tonne, four-masted wooden schooner built in Puget Sound, Washington, United States, in 1903. Sailing from Fremantle to Manila, the ship was blown ashore during a gale on 29 May 1917. The schooner could not be refloated and became a total wreck. I have been told by experts from the Western Australian Museum that the wreck is rare, being one of only two four-masted schooners wrecked in Australia. The Attorney General and I visited the wreck only recently.

The SPEAKER: It was three wrecks.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Mr Speaker, I might tell you later behind the Chair about the Attorney General's unfortunate fall.

Conservation orders protect places of cultural heritage significance to Western Australia from damage. The Museum will monitor the shipwreck site to enforce the order and reduce the likelihood of further vandalism.