

SWAN BELL TOWER — ANZAC BELL CASTING

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.06 pm]: I would like to inform the house of a significant and historic event—the casting of the commemorative ANZAC Bell, to be installed in the Swan Bell Tower to mark the final year of the centenary of ANZAC in 2018. The bell was cast earlier this month by VEEM, a Western Australian firm based in Canning Vale that specialises in marine propulsion and stabilisation technology. The bell is a bourdon type; bourdons are the heaviest of bells and produce the lowest tone. The bell weighs 6.5 tonnes and is the largest bell of its size ever to be cast in Australia. The design of the bell is by Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Prior to the closure of their foundry operations in June 2017, Whitechapel Bell Foundry was one of the oldest bell manufacturers in the world, and was the manufacturer of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia and the Big Ben in London. Following casting of the bell, it will be transported to an engineering facility in Welshpool to be installed on a lathe for the tuning process. A representative of Whitechapel Bell Foundry will fine-tune the bell to ensure the correct sound. The design of the ANZAC Bell includes a frieze on the side of the bell. The frieze depicts people from all cultures and conflicts, set together in a landscape with a setting sun.

The ANZAC Bell is scheduled for installation in the Bell Tower in readiness for Remembrance Day on 11 November 2018. Installation of the bell is being jointly managed by the Swan Bells Foundation and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Culture and the Arts (WA) infrastructure team. Shortly before the installation, a ceremony will be conducted to dedicate the bell to the ANZACs.

I would like to congratulate the Swan Bells Foundation, which operates the Bell Tower and is managing the ANZAC Bell project. I look forward to the final installation of the ANZAC Bell for all Western Australians to enjoy.