

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.53 pm]: Over the past weeks, it has been spectacular to see how the whole of WA has rallied behind our Ukrainian community. On Sunday, 6 March, I saw this community spirit, with WA artists responding to the Russian invasion by unfurling a giant 18-by-12-metre Ukrainian flag at the *Sculpture by the Sea* exhibition. As the flag was being held high by more than 100 people, there were tears and hugs as members of the Ukrainian community shared their deeply concerning stories of friends and family still in Ukraine. Although this display was part of a global movement by artists to draw attention to the current crisis, the link between Ukraine and *Sculpture by the Sea* is particularly strong. The marquee Perth cultural event has displayed the work of Ukrainian artists in recent years. Mere months ago, the Sculpture by the Sea organisation was planning an associated exhibition in the city of Mariupol. Now, the Ukrainian exhibition planner is a refugee on the country's western border and Mariupol is the centre of fierce Ukrainian resistance.

On the same day, I was also able to attend a moving twilight vigil for Ukraine at St Mary's Cathedral. At this bipartisan vigil, we saw Western Australians speak with a clear and united voice that bridged political divides in condemning the bloodshed caused by Putin and his cronies. At a time when the people of Ukraine are undergoing enormous and unjust suffering, it is the responsibility of all Western Australians to reach out with support to our Ukrainian community and stand with them in their calls for peace and freedom.