## BRUCE ROBERTS — COLLIE

*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston)** [12.58 pm]: Earlier this month, Bruce Roberts ended his long stint at Collie's Griffin Coal mine and has hung up his steelcapped boots. After 45 years, Bruce has retired and I congratulate him on not only his longevity of employment with the same company but also his outstanding commitment to the Collie community. Bruce began at Griffin Coal as an apprentice boilermaker–welder and finished up earlier this month, remaining a mainstay in the workshop over the entire 45 years he worked there. Bruce recently told me that in his first week at work, the Griffin manager picked him up for work to make sure he was on time. How things have changed. Among his colleagues, he is well respected for his work ethic and his strong values for protecting workers' employment conditions and rights, and of course no-one could escape his wry sense of humour.

I will attempt to list some of the contributions and public service positions Bruce has held over the years, which include: Shire of Collie president and councillor, instigating many of the changes we are now seeing; member of the Coal Futures Group; member of Collie shire sports council advisory committee; and member of the Coal Miners Welfare Board of Western Australia. Beyond these he has also been a strong ALP supporter and has held the positions of president and secretary of the ALP Collie branch. I was also fortunate to have Bruce as my campaign director in 2001 and he helped immensely in allowing me to be elected to this place. Bruce is a low-key, unassuming fellow; really, the term "quiet achiever" surmises a perfect description of him. I wish Bruce all the best in his retirement and know that the Collie community stands behind me to thank and acknowledge him for the many, many achievements he has made for our town. Thank you, Bruce.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*