

A RICH AND DIVERSE HERITAGE — A SNAPSHOT OF COLLIE 1898–2010

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12.58 pm]: Today I wish to acknowledge the efforts of a Collie author, Mr John Bird. John has resided in Collie for almost 25 years. In that time he has taken an active interest in community affairs. John has been a shire councillor since 1999 and has served as deputy shire president for four and a half years. He has also served on the board of the South West Development Commission. A keen sportsman, John has also been in key administrative roles with the Collie Cricket Association and the Collie Race Club. John has written a number of books, including *The Last Coach* in 1979, a history of Albany Road; *Round Pool to Woodanilling: A History of the Shire of Woodanilling* in 1986; *West of the Arthur* in 1990, a history of the Shire of West Arthur; *Across the lake: 1911–1992* in 1992, a history of Lake Grace; and *Hebe: the black jewel* in 1994, a history of the Griffin Coal Mining Company. He was also a contributor to *100 Years of Collie Coal* in 1988. In addition, John Bird has researched and written comprehensive municipal heritage inventories for the Shires of Williams, West Arthur, Woodanilling and Collie. Since living in Collie, he has worked in a number of roles, including a role in charge of community relations with Griffin Coal. Following this, he worked on contract terms as coordinator with the Collie Mainstreet program and the Collie Family Centre. John's latest work has created a valued collation of Collie's past. It is a great read and will bring back many memories to current and past residents. The book is titled *A Rich and Diverse Heritage – A Snapshot of Collie 1898–2010* and is a compilation of five years' research. It is well written and the photographs are a delight. The book has details of 200 significant sites ranging from local interest to state and national interest. The local sites include old school grounds, timber mill sites and buildings. On behalf of the Collie community, I thank John Bird for his wonderful contribution to the town of Collie and for his outstanding efforts in preserving our history.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm