

**PREMIER'S SCIENCE AWARDS**

*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe)** [12.53 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the winners and contenders of the annual Premier's Science Awards announced this week. As a scientist, I am always pleased when plaudits are directed to science and scientists, when the significance of scientific contributions to our quality of life and to the expansion of our knowledge of the world is publicly recognised.

I was delighted to learn that this year's Scientist of the Year is Professor Kadambot Siddique, a man I personally know and greatly respect as a person and scientist. Professor Siddique arrived in Western Australia almost 40 years ago as a PhD scholarship recipient to undertake his agricultural PhD research at the University of Western Australia, producing the first thesis on chickpeas in Australia. Professor Siddique is now Hackett Professor of Agriculture at the University of Western Australia.

Professor Siddique has done an enormous amount of work aimed at improving grain and legume production in lower rainfall environments. This work has delivered advancements in agricultural production in our state and far beyond, resulting in his international renown. Professor Siddique is a luminary in his field and can now add to his accolades the title of Western Australia's Scientist of the Year Award.

I wish to congratulate and acknowledge all award winners and nominees for their scientific endeavours and for their contributions to advancing our knowledge of the world around us. Congratulations.