

MR FRED DRAKE-BROCKMAN

Statement by Member for Collie

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie) [12.58 pm]: I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a man who has made a significant contribution to local government in my electorate. Recently, Fred Drake-Brockman retired from the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup after service spanning 15 years. In that term he served a three-year stint as deputy shire president and took on the role of shire president for the past six years. Fred followed in the footsteps of two previous generations in service to local government. Fred's father was a councillor for 15 years in the 1940s and 1950s and Fred's grandfather was a founding member of the shire's governing body back in 1896 and continued his service for another 20 years. Fred is one of those extraordinary leaders who puts the good of the community above his own politics and, as such, has been an effective worker for the community. Apart from his duties as shire president, Fred serves on the board of the South West Development Commission; is the fire control officer for the Lowden bush fire brigade; is Chairman of the Preston Valley Irrigation Cooperative; and is a board member of the South West Regional Planning Committee and the Bunbury-Wellington Economic Alliance. I have had the pleasure of working with Fred in the past two years on matters relating to the shire and, although our views were not always the same, Fred was always willing to work through the issues with me. I was always very appreciative of his input and outlook on all matters. The Donnybrook community has had its money's worth from Fred, who has had loyal support from his wife Jan. I am sure their involvement in the community will not cease just because Fred is no longer in the limelight. Fred carries a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be sorely missed in local government circles.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

The SPEAKER: Members, before we start question time, I acknowledge the presence in the Speaker's gallery of a member of the South Australian Parliament, Hon Robert Brokenshire.

[Applause.]