

**MT BURDETT FOUNDATION**

*Statement by Member for Roe*

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.57 pm]: On Thursday, 2 March, I was invited to, and had the pleasure of attending, Mt Burdett Foundation's celebration event at Esperance Bay Yacht Club. Mt Burdett Foundation was founded in 2019 by Esperance farmer Chris Reichstein, ahead of his subsequent passing in 2021. Chris's insatiable passion for agriculture and thirst for knowledge to improve and sustain outputs, along with his philanthropic goals, brought Mt Burdett Foundation to reality. Mt Burdett Foundation operates courtesy of a long list of volunteers, originating with founding board directors David Falconer and William Ryan. Mt Burdett Farm continues to operate under the guidance of an advisory committee comprising eminent local agriculture specialists Andrew Fowler, Greg Curnow, Ben Curtis, Chris Henderson, Luke Marquis and Chris's brother Ashley. Out of respect and appreciation for the Esperance community, the foundation established the Esperance Community Advisory Committee, the members of which include Megan McDowall, Peter Bednall, Shaun Meares, Kyron Smithson, Rebecca Seinor, Katie White and Lois Saunders. This eclectic group brings a vast range of expertise. A third volunteer committee, the Rural and Regional Advancement Committee, brings to the table high-calibre members Erin Gorter, Julianne Hill, Peter Roberts, Hon Terry Redman and Rob Cossart to support projects beyond the Esperance region. The foundation has provided over \$350 000 to community groups over the last three years. Mt Burdett Foundation is Chris's legacy to agriculture, a community he cherished and regional WA, in a state he thrived in.