

**JOHN ATTWOOD**

*Statement by Member for Collie–Preston*

**MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston)** [12.51 pm]: It is my great pleasure to acknowledge and congratulate outgoing Donnybrook–Balingup shire chief executive John Attwood on his near half century of service within those communities. John will retire at the end of this month after an incredible 46 years at the shire, with 27 of those years spent in the top job. John's contribution to the Donnybrook and Balingup communities during his time at the helm has been terrific. Anyone who remembers back a few decades will attest to how far those town centres and surrounding regions have come. Both Balingup and Donnybrook's main streets were revitalised during John's tenure, with the redevelopments proving a fantastic catalyst for further growth in the region. His work has helped transform these central business districts to better reflect modern times, helping to drive a new wave of arts, tourism and events-focused industries. In turn, this improved prospects for small business, provided more opportunities for local employment and cemented both Donnybrook and Balingup as uniquely historic but very liveable towns within the south west. This kind of transformative change requires a very clear vision and strong, steady leadership. John has led this wave of change with great distinction, and the terrific state of the communities he leaves behind is testament to that. I am told that in retirement John plans to spend much of his time fishing and travelling, and I wish him every good fortune in these and all the other challenges to come. On behalf of this house I thank you for your service, John; best of luck with the future!