

TERRY MASSARA

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie–Preston) [12.56]: I rise today to sing the praises of Collie businessman, Mr Terry Massara. Terry lost his father when he was 14 years old. One of seven children, he had to do it tough when growing up. Money was tight and Terry did odd jobs mowing lawns, delivering milk and whatever else he could do to help the family make ends meet. At 16 years of age, Terry started his first job at Coles. He moved on to work underground in the coal mining industry and from there branching out to buy a deli, starting a milk round and then purchasing the old Western Collieries building with some friends and redesigning and converting it into the very successful Banksia Motel. This venture whetted his appetite for business. He then founded Coalcliff Plant Hire, starting out with one machine and building the business up to 200 machines with an annual turnover of around \$20 million, employing 65 mainly local people. Terry has also taken the time to start an Indigenous training program within the company. But of special interest is Terry's commitment to the town of Collie. Terry was one of the first directors of Bendigo Bank, a strong advocate for the Collie Chamber of Commerce and Industry and, as a revhead, a member of the Collie Motorsport Group committee. Terry has never forgotten his humble beginnings. His priority is still his family and friends, and of course his home town of Collie. His mother Eileen is very proud of her son. A kind and generous benefactor, he has donated work valued at around \$250 000 to the Collie Motorplex in the past 10 and a half years and tens of thousands of dollars worth of work to other local community groups. If someone is struggling and down on their luck, we can be sure Terry will help or find them a job and give them every opportunity to get their life back on track. Terry is always willing to help others, often puts others before himself and is a great counsellor to many of his friends. So many people come to him for advice or a chat to get things off their chest that there is a running joke—Tezza 1800 helpline! Terry, the town of Collie salutes you. Thank you for your generosity.