

**COUNCILLOR DON HAMMARQUIST — TRIBUTE**

*Statement*

**HON PETER FOSTER (Mining and Pastoral)** [6.19 pm]: Tonight I rise with sadness to notify the house of the passing of Councillor Don Hammarquist, Shire President of Upper Gascoyne. Don served on the council for 33 years, having first been elected in 1990. He was awarded a medal of the Order of Australia in 2019 for his service to local government. For 33 years, Don served his local community, working with others to improve services, create new facilities and make the most of every opportunity. Upper Gascoyne is a better place for residents and visitors because of his years of dedication and service.

Don was also recently named a freeman of the local government, being only the sixth person to receive the honour. His work with the Gascoyne Development Commission, a regional road group and the Western Australian Local Government Association zone meetings saw him make meaningful contributions to the whole Gascoyne–Murchison region, in particular to tourism in the region through Mt Augustus Tourist Park.

Don also received a lifetime achievement award from the Country Racing Association of Western Australia for his service to country racing, in particular the Gascoyne Junction Race Club.

The Hammarquist family has requested that people make donations to the Cancer Council WA or Crawford House rather than send any flowers.

I am sure the house will join me in sending our heartfelt condolences to Don's wife, Dot; his children, Matthew, David and Melanie; his friends; shire staff; and the residents in the shire he served for so many years. He will be deeply missed.