

PAUL RITTER — CONDOLENCE

Statement by Member for Armadale

MS A.J.G. MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [12.53 pm]: A great character and contributor to Perth and its sense of itself, Mr Paul Ritter, died this week. Paul lived a very public life during his time in Western Australia, and it is appropriate that we mark his passing and his contribution in this place. Paul Ritter was in the headlines from the very first, when he burst in on the city scene in 1965 after moving here from England—he was originally from Czechoslovakia—to become Perth’s first city planner and architect. He challenged orthodox thinking and more than ruffled a few feathers; one might say he indeed plucked many a bird! In the two tempestuous years he remained in the job, he managed to stop the engineer’s dream of a six-lane freeway along Riverside Drive, which is a lasting contribution. He also developed the great “Ritter rings”, which I personally was always very much in favour of, and the Crestwood estate. He went on to serve for 18 years at the Perth City Council. He really fired up debate over many years about Perth, the shape of the city and the way we should be going. He was certainly someone who saw planning as something far more than a dry technical development control exercise; he saw it as something to which every possible discipline should be brought to bear to ensure that we created an urban environment that was enjoyable for the world.