

ALBANY SEA RESCUE SQUAD — GROUP BRAVERY CITATION

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services) [12.08 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about a Group Bravery Citation bestowed on three volunteer members of the Albany Sea Rescue Squad. On the night of 29 October 2015, skipper Jason Shepherd; Christopher Johns, ESM; and Timothy Wilkinson from the Albany sea rescue were involved in the rescue of a woman from the water at the blowholes near Albany.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr F.M. LOGAN: At 8.00 pm, the Albany sea rescue members were deployed to search for a person who had been reported missing. Weather conditions were challenging, with strong easterly winds, rough seas, and almost complete darkness as they made the 45-minute trip to the area. They faced treacherous conditions, managing to locate the woman, and the rescue vessel was carefully manoeuvred alongside her. All three crew members lifted the seriously injured woman onto the boat and immediately performed first-aid treatment. The woman suffered significant injuries and hypothermia, and as the situation became more complicated and time critical, the crew battled the difficult conditions to return the injured woman to shore.

I am sure that every member in this house will join me in acknowledging the Albany Sea Rescue Squad members for their tireless efforts; they risked their own lives and braved rough seas to pull the woman to safety. For their actions, these three volunteers are deserving recipients of the Group Bravery Citation and it is fitting to acknowledge their heroism in this house. On behalf of the Western Australian community, I would like to congratulate each of them on receiving the Group Bravery Citation and thank them for their ongoing service.

Members: Hear, hear!