

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS LIST — RICHARD WINCH

Statement by Member for Vasse

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.59 pm]: My congratulations to Richard Winch, who was recognised for his service to the community of Busselton in the Australia Day 2024 Honours List with the prestigious Medal of the Order of Australia. Rick, as he is affectionately known across the community, is a respected ex-serviceman of the Royal Australian Navy of the Australian Defence Force, with an Active Service Medal from 1945–75 with the clasps for Malaysia and Vietnam.

For 25 years, Rick has been actively involved with the Busselton sub-branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia and held a variety of tenures, supporting the growing and evolving needs of members and their families. In 2004, Rick joined the local committee that was instrumental in bringing the inaugural Ironman Western Australia event to Busselton, which played a pivotal role in the jurisdiction becoming the events capital of WA. Rick represented the Australian Navy in basketball, and with over 40 years supporting younger players as a coach and administrator was recognised as a Busselton Amateur Basketball Association life member.

Rick's interests extend to his passion for the beautiful and exotic local species of orchids, and is reflected in his being member for over 14 years, and former president, of both the Australasian Native Orchid Society and the Orchid Society of Western Australia. He is a current judge and member of the latter, which is testament to his expertise and knowledge of this astonishing group of plants. Rick, you are an exemplary member of our community and our lives are all the more richer for your contribution. Thank you on behalf of the community for your valuable contributions.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm