

**NORTHERN STAR RESOURCES AND SARACEN MINERAL HOLDINGS MERGER —
DIGGERS AND DEALERS MINING FORUM**

Statement by Member for Kalgoorlie

MR K.M. O'DONNELL (Kalgoorlie) [12.57 pm]: There was fantastic news last week that Super Pit owners Northern Star Resources and Saracen Mineral Holdings are set to combine, having agreed to a merger of equals worth \$16 billion. Northern Star's Bill Beament will chair the merged company, while Saracen managing director Raleigh Finlayson will be the managing director. The proposed merger will create a new top-10 global gold major with a world-class portfolio, including a production centre in North America. For the first time in its 125-year history, the famous Golden Mile will be consolidated under one owner. Bill Beament from Northern Star and Raleigh Finlayson from Saracen are both former Western Australian School of Mines alumni as well as both being goldfields and Esperance locals. With them at the helm, the future is bright. I congratulate both Bill and Raleigh.

This week, as always, I was very pleased to welcome the world-famous Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum again into our wonderful City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, which 1 800 delegates attended. The mining and resources sector has once again proved to be the backbone of our great country. Ticket sales alone reached \$3.6 million. The delegates also proceeded to spend a lot of money to boost our local economy. The goldfields, as always, has proved resilient, and as the local member I am proud of our contribution in keeping the economy running during this pandemic.

Jim Epis, the CEO of the Shire of Leonora, received the Local Government Distinguished Officers Award at the Western Australian Local Government Association annual general meeting in September. Jim began working for the shire in 1982 as a grader operator and went on to become the CEO for 24 years and counting. Leonora is a great town and it is people like Jim who help to make it great. Jim is a down-to-earth, good bloke.