

Mr Mark McGowan; Dr Mike Nahan; Mr Peter Rundle; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Dean Nalder; Mr Bill Marmion;  
Mrs Michelle Roberts; Mr John McGrath

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**HON KENNON (RICHARD) LEWIS**

*Condolence Motion*

**MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [11.03 am] — without notice: I move —

That this house records its sincere regret at the death of Hon Kennon Richard Lewis and tenders its deep sympathy to his family.

I would like to commence by acknowledging the members of Richard’s family here in the house today: his wife, Helen; his brother, Roger, and his wife, Megan; and his daughter, Morgen, and also his son, Lachlan, who could not make it this morning.

Richard led a long and successful career, both inside and outside the Parliament. He was born Kennon Richard Lewis to Mr Kennon and Mrs Marjorie Lewis on 4 September 1939 in East Fremantle. He would go on to lead a big life, achieving some of the highest accolades Australia has to offer, before passing away to cancer in March this year. I note that prior to him leaving us, he received an Order of Australia medal on Australia Day this year. He also got to see, last year, his beloved West Coast Eagles win a fourth premiership, which I am sure gave him great pleasure.

Looking over the life and times of Richard Lewis, two things emerge as running themes: land and sea, which are somewhat contradictory. On land is where Richard made his name and career. He was trained in cartography and surveying, working for the Department of Lands and Survey for a decade before making his way in private practice, where he found considerable success. His private work involved engineering and cadastral surveying, mostly relating to property ownership and boundaries. He also got involved in politics, becoming a local councillor in 1970 at the City of Melville, and for many periods was its deputy mayor. But it is clear he also had a deep love of the water. He served as an expert diver in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, which he joined at the age of 17 years, and he loved rowing, fishing, and surf club patrols. I read in his obituary that his family referred to him as the “minister for pulling craypots, swimming with seals and ocean exploration.”

Like many who have found success in Western Australia, Mr Lewis was eventually drawn to the state Parliament. He was elected to Parliament as the Liberal member for East Melville in 1986. He shifted to Applecross when the seat of East Melville was abolished in a redistribution in 1989. Richard had a successful career in Parliament, reaching shadow cabinet after two years and serving in a variety of roles before becoming a cabinet minister in Richard Court’s government in 1993. He served at various times as the Minister for Planning, Heritage and Housing, and Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport. Many of the ministerial decisions he would have made in those portfolios would undoubtedly have shaped the face of Perth and Western Australia today. I know, for example, Member for Butler, that a lot of the land around Alkimos was zoned “urban” under Richard Lewis in the early 1990s and is now being developed.

Following his life in politics, Richard would go on to be chairman of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority and director of Western Power, not to mention chairman of directors for various companies involved with investment and property development. What shines through his biography is a dedication to and love for his community and civic life, with memberships and leadership positions with too many organisations to mention them all, but they include vice chairman of Meals on Wheels, to a role of justice of the peace, member of the Legion of Oarsmen WA, and an inaugural member of the West Coast Eagles Football Club. He was also devoted to his family, who are here this morning, and was a well-known family man. I met Richard Lewis a couple of times. I remember in the 1990s, when I was running for Parliament, he was the Minister for Planning and his name was always in the paper, which always seems to happen to people in that role. He was always in the paper and on television, and he often seemed to be involved in controversy. As a young man, as I then was, it struck me that he was a very forthright and strong advocate for what he believed in. He struck me as being very pro-development, pro-activity and pro-action. He was a member of Richard Court’s first government, which, as we know, was quite a successful administration and quite electorally successful. My recollection is that he left Parliament when I was elected, so we did not overlap. In fact, we adjoined one another’s political careers and he left, I think, as a result of redistribution issues—seats disappearing and the like—so there were not enough seats to go around.

During his period in Parliament he had a very successful career, and obviously rose to being a minister in government in an important portfolio. It was an important role that he fulfilled in public life. I had seen him from afar, and met him in the building a couple of times when he came to see debates and came to lunches, and things of that nature. Obviously, we were on different sides of Parliament, but he was very friendly to me. He had a ready smile and an easy nature. He did not seem to hold any partisanship or any political differences; he was just a nice man. I enjoyed meeting him, actually, because he had been a bit of a giant when I was running for Parliament. It is always nice to meet people who achieve to that level. He made a big contribution.

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He was a member who was dedicated to his local area. He wanted to do the right thing by his constituents. In his inaugural speech in Parliament, he wanted it to be known that his electorate office door was always open. He said —

No-one's politics will be inquired of and all that will be asked is, "How can I be of assistance and what is your opinion?"

Looking through his first speech, I am sure there is much that we would have disagreed on, politically and philosophically, and from all accounts he relished spirited debate in here. I think we can all agree with the closing of his inaugural speech, where he said —

Finally I say we must never forget that what we do in this Chamber affects the lives of our fellow Western Australians, and it is with humility that I pledge myself to their service.

Very wise words by a very wise, very high achieving man. With that, on behalf of the government, I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to his family and friends. Vale Richard Lewis.

Members: Hear, hear!

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton — Leader of the Opposition)** [11.11 am]: I would like to join in this condolence motion. Whenever we set foot on one of the CAT buses in our city, or drive through the Northbridge tunnel, we can thank Richard Lewis. As the Minister for Planning in the mid-1990s, Richard bore the principal responsibility for carrying through the planning construction of the Graham Farmer Freeway, a project that was controversial but, in the end, highly successful. As the minister assisting the Minister for Transport in the Court Liberal–National government, he was behind the free CBD bus links, which we all use. They are a central part of the transport activity in our city.

Richard passed away last month, at the age of 79. He had made a significant contribution to his community, including his time in this state Parliament. Kennon Richard Lewis was born in East Fremantle in September 1939, the son of an engineer, which had an impact on him. He later received a diploma in engineering and became a licensed surveyor in 1969, an occupation which he was very proud of and would stand him in good stead during his time in Parliament. Between 1957 and 1969, Richard served as a reservist in the Royal Australian Navy with a six-month secondment as a Navy diver and tactical operator in 1962. His involvement in his community prompted his election to the Melville city council at the age of 31. He gave 14 years' service, twice becoming deputy mayor. During that time, he became an active member of the Liberal Party, becoming the inaugural vice president of the Booragoon branch in the mid-1970s. In 1985, Richard Lewis successfully contested the Liberal preselection of the District of East Melville, after the retirement of Tony Trethowan, MLA. The seat comprised the suburbs of Applecross, Ardross, Booragoon, Attadale and Melville. He was re-elected when the seat was renamed Applecross and redrawn three years later. He remained a member this house for 11 years.

In his inaugural parliamentary speech, Richard spoke with great knowledge and conviction about both the decreasing amount of information available to private landholders, and the inadequate compensation provided for land resumption, two issues that he was still passionate about to his last breath. In opposition from 1988, Richard served as shadow minister in the portfolios—there are many—of housing, planning, lands, transport, small business and water resources. When a coalition shadow ministry was formed in November 1992, he held responsibilities for housing and lands.

I was active with Richard at this time, and I recall him being assiduous in the pursuit of WA Inc matters in the 1989 to 1993 Parliament. He was part of a team that was instrumental in exposing this terrible period, and, importantly, contributed to significant improvements in transparency and accountability in government. He subsequently became a minister. In government, Richard brought commercial and professional expertise to cabinet, where he would argue his case with great determination. He is also remembered as a forceful and always well prepared contributor in the Legislative Assembly.

After his parliamentary career, Richard continued his service to the community as chairman of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority from 1997 to 2001, and as director of Western Power from 1998 to 2001. Drawing on his professional and political experience, he was a member of the Metropolitan Region Planning Authority for four years and served on advisory committees for south west planning, residential codes and urban arterial funds. More than that, he was deeply involved in the community. All of us, particularly in the South Metropolitan region, as representatives in local government or in Parliament, knew Richard as a person that we could always approach, or who often would approach us, but always with good favour and friendly, sound advice. He was a great supporter of new members in Parliament in particular. I remember when I put my hand up for Parliament, he was one of the first people to seek me out—of course, I knew him well—to advise on my campaign for Riverton, which was, by the way, a submarginal seat. As the Premier indicated, Richard made certain points to me. First, we are here to represent the electorate; to listen; to help people, irrespective of their values, views or political affiliation; to work hard; and to doorknock, which he did a lot of. That is why he is well liked and respected on both sides of Parliament.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY — Thursday, 11 April 2019]

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Richard was an inaugural member of the West Coast Eagles and a vice president of the East Fremantle Football Club. He continued to be active in the Liberal Party and was a prominent and life member of the 500 Club. As the Premier indicated, he was awarded membership of the Order of Australia this year—well deserved.

There is one issue that has always puzzled me. I remember before I think the 1996 election, I was having coffee with Richard, and he indicated that he was going to stand down and not continue. It was not due to changes in the boundaries; it was not due to expected electoral outcomes—he was going to get re-elected if he chose to do so. I talked with Helen today. He decided that time was up. He had the view that a member should only spend a certain period in Parliament, because, as with everything, your use-by date starts coming for you. In my view, he left prematurely—he had much more to offer—but that was his choice. After Parliament, he continued to contribute as much to the community as he had in Parliament, particularly in the south metropolitan area.

Richard and Helen were blessed with a happy marriage of 55 years—enjoyable all! We express our sympathy to Helen, Lachlan and Morgen, and to their extended family and many devoted friends. It was a life well lived. Vale Richard.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [11.18 am]: I rise on behalf of the Nationals WA and the Leader of the Nationals WA to make a contribution to this condolence motion for Richard Lewis, AM, member of the Liberal Party. In his inaugural speech, Mr Lewis paid tribute to his family. He said that he recognised family as the foundation of our society, and paid tribute to his wife, Helen, and children, Lachlan and Morgen, for their support. I express my sincerest condolences to Helen, Lachlan and Morgen and their extended family and friends at this sad time.

In January 2019, Mr Lewis became a deserved recipient of the Member of the Order of Australia for his service to both the Parliament of WA and his community. Before entering state politics, Mr Lewis was a City of Melville councillor from 1970 to 1984; a period that included two stints as deputy mayor. In 1986, he was elected to the seat of East Melville, and when that seat was abolished in the redistribution of 1989, he carried on as member for Applecross until retiring in 1996.

We can attribute significant projects to Mr Lewis, such as the challenging planning for the Northbridge tunnel and locking in the central area transit bus service that remains a feature of CBD transport. Mr Lewis served as Minister for Planning, Minister for Heritage, and minister assisting the Minister for Transport in the Court government alongside National Party stalwarts such as Hendy Cowan, MLA; Monty House, MLA; Eric Charlton, MLC; Bob Wiese, MLA; and Murray Criddle, MLC.

Eric Charlton, Minister for Transport from 1993 to 1998, and Leader of the National Party WA in the Legislative Council from 1989 to 1998, supplied some recollections of Mr Lewis. He said, “The portfolios of planning and transport often involved dealing with the same projects and required cooperation between us. As a consequence, we had many discussions over the years. On the odd occasion, Richard would get a little excited when he thought some of my activities spread too far into Planning. A few examples were the Midland railway land, Forrestfield, North Fremantle, and the construction of the Northbridge tunnel and Graham Farmer Freeway. Members may be interested in knowing that the Graham Farmer Freeway was built on budget and three months ahead of schedule. Another area where we worked together was the planning amendment for the Fremantle eastern bypass—an alignment that should have been retained. Richard and I had many great discussions and laughs together. I always looked forward to his humour and comments about issues of the day. Richard had a particular one-liner I remember, when referring to a happening of the time—‘It’s a scandal!’”

In his ministerial capacity, Mr Lewis made some regional decisions. He recognised the importance of a holistic approach to planning for the future needs of Western Australia, inclusive of regional WA. In 1993, in his capacity as Minister for Planning, Mr Lewis was responsible for the overhaul of the State Planning Commission into a new, restructured Western Australian Planning Commission. The restructure was put in place with the vision to have a new, cohesive commission set up to concentrate on identifying and planning employment, housing, recreational and educational opportunities on a statewide basis; improving the administration of the planning process; and better progressing the government’s vision for the planning of the state and its regions. Mr Lewis oversaw the development of several regional development strategies that supported state and local governments to make informed and strategic decisions in planning for their communities.

We remain grateful to Mr Kennon Richard Lewis, AM, for recognising the potential for these regions to play an active role in growing tourism and other economic development opportunities for WA. We pay tribute to his contribution to the people of Western Australia. I had the opportunity to meet Richard earlier this year. I was captured by his humility and congenial personality. As the Premier said, he struck me as a person whose door was always open.

Vale, Richard Lewis.

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**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [11.23 am]: I, too, rise to contribute to this condolence motion in honour of the late Kennon Richard Lewis, AM, known as Richard Lewis. I was contacted by some surveying friends of Richard's when they heard that this condolence motion was to be moved. I have done my best to verify whether their anecdotes are accurate or not. I beg the forgiveness of the chamber if there are inaccuracies in my contribution. To that end, I would like to thank Kevin MacMahon; Rob Agnew; John Zadnick, who is in the public gallery, and I believe is godfather to Richard's son; and also my dad, Eugene Browne, for their assistance in putting this condolence motion together.

Richard joined the Department of Lands in 1955, applying for a job as a 15-year old, although he had turned 16 by the time he took the position. He fronted up in response to an advertisement for eight jobs and apparently only six applicants turned up. I am told that was the benefit of being born at the start of the war. Apparently, a few years later, the same eight cadetships were advertised and 200 applicants turned up. Cadetships in those days were prized because they offered the opportunity for training while also drawing an income. I am told by Richard's friend Kevin MacMahon that they both enjoyed skin diving and used to drive down to Point Peron in a 1936 Austin 10 to swim to Garden Island. Kevin tells me that he and Richard used to dive on the wrecks in Thomson Bay and pull up clay pipes from the wrecks. Richard had a skill not revealed by other sources. I am advised by Kevin that Richard was a talented caricature artist—I am told, to rival Paul Rigby. According to Kevin, he drew a "Mack the Knife" caricature of Kevin in the Austin 10 with a snorkel, flippers, fish, and God knows what hanging out of the windows!

The cadet cartographers all encouraged each other, and after completing their four-year course they worked on how to achieve their aspirations to become licensed surveyors. Part of the attraction of surveying at the time was that it was quite physical work. They would work all day in the field and then complete a few hours at night recording calculations in field books. Hearing that from Kevin took me back to childhood memories of my dad at night sitting in a caravan—if we happened to be out bush, or in whatever government accommodation we happened to be residing in in regional towns—after having done a hard day's work in the field, just as Richard would have done, writing all his notes and doing his calculations at the kitchen table.

Apparently Perth Technical College was a bit of a disappointment to the cadets, as they would knock off work, rush off to Sherwood Court for a plate of spaghetti and then into tech for their coursework. Unfortunately for the cadets, the coursework was on a Friday night. When they were heading in to tech to do their work, all their mates would be heading off to celebrate the end of the week. It was a very rugged existence in the Treasury building, where Lands was located at the time. It was the cadets' job to come in in the morning and use their boy scout skills to light the fire while studiously trying to avoid the staff clerk. Apparently the staff clerk used to try to get the articulated cadets to sign up as permanent civil servants, which the boys viewed as a fate worse than death! A friend used to tip them off when the staff clerk was doing his rounds, and they would race off out the back and down the catwalk to avoid him.

Richard successfully avoided the staff clerk and gained diplomas in cartography and engineering surveying from Perth Technical College in 1959 and 1964 respectively. He then returned to Perth Tech to complete his matriculation in order to become a licensed surveyor. He obtained his certificate of competency on 26 June 1969 and was articled to Alan Lockhart. He continued to work as a licensed surveyor at Steffanoni, Ewing and Cruickshank, becoming an associate partner in 1971. In 1977, he joined Morrie Fisher and became a partner in the firm Fisher Lewis Consulting Surveyors, later becoming a managing director and principal shareholder of the firm.

Richard's work involved cadastral and engineering surveys, and urban design, as well as urban and unit development consultancy. Richard was highly respected by the surveying fraternity and had an association with the Western Australian Institution of Surveyors as far back as 1967, when he was admitted as a student mentor, progressing to associate in 1969 and a corporate member in 1971. He was elected as a fellow in 1995 as well as being a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. In his citation for recognition by the Western Australian Institution of Surveyors, while documenting all of Richard's many achievements to that date—17 October 1995—it was noted that —

Richard has had a most distinguished career in serving the community at local and State Government level, particularly in his present position as Minister for Planning and Heritage. Throughout his professional and public life, he has retained membership of the Institution of Surveyor and has on many occasions assisted sub-committees in their interaction with Government. He is a Surveyor and member of the Institution who has brought great credit to the profession.

The elevation of a Member to Fellow of this Institution is recognition of service not only to the profession, but also of contribution to the community. Richard Lewis has dedicated his life to the objects of the Institution and has brought credit to the profession through his involvement with government.

I think that sums up well who Richard was. Richard was always known as a minister. I think it was acknowledged that his grassroots work as a surveyor and in small business served him very well as a minister in the government. He was always seen as somebody who was very pragmatic and very sensible. He had a considered approach and

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was always professional. I have never heard a bad word said about the way in which Richard conducted himself as a minister.

In Richard's valedictory speech, he said —

... I believe that all people are good and true ...

As parliamentarians we have to raise our game, conduct ourselves better, be scrupulous in our debates, leave personalities out of it and try to lift the whole ethic of parliamentary life.

Those are words that I believe would appeal to the hearts and minds of people in the electorate today.

On a personal note, Richard provided me with advice and assistance on a number of matters during my time as a member in this place. Most recently, he approached me about the strata legislation. Richard was quite alarmed at how complex and cumbersome our legislation had become. When the strata legislation was introduced, he wanted to introduce an instrument that any mums and dads living in townhouses could use to go to the State Administrative Tribunal if they had a problem. He quite accurately bemoaned the fact that the new legislation has become so complex that mums and dads in strata complexes are probably no longer able to access SAT to defend themselves. Richard made that point quite strongly to me at the time. He also contacted me recently about the proposed sale of Landgate. As a surveyor and a fellow of the WA Institution of Surveyors, that is something to which he was opposed. He remained active and engaged right up until recently, and I will be ever grateful for the advice he provided me. It certainly assisted me with my deliberations in this place.

I offer my sincere condolences to Richard's wife, Helen, his daughter, Morgen, and son, Lachlan, all of his family and, indeed, all of his friends and colleagues in the industry who very much miss his company. I understand that the last few years would have been very difficult for the family, but I would like to put on the record that every time I met Richard during the time he was unwell, he was always gracious and engaging; he kept his sense of humour and he was up to date. He always had something to contribute and a kind word to say to whomever crossed his path. I think that is a lesson for all of us in this place on how to conduct ourselves.

In closing, I put on the record my thanks to Richard Lewis for not only his contribution to Parliament but also his huge contribution to the community.

**MR D.C. NALDER (Bateman)** [11.32 am]: I also would like to extend my sympathies to Helen, Morgen, Lachlan and the family, and to make a short contribution on my interactions with Richard Lewis.

Richard's seat of Applecross almost mirrored my current seat of Bateman, and Richard and I had many conversations, particularly given electoral boundary changes and the experiences that he had had and that I went through. Richard and I spent a lot of time talking. He became a mentor to me and provided me with counsel and advice, which was always appreciated.

My family's appreciation of Richard goes way back. Richard actually served on a committee with my dad, looking at the Midland saleyards back in the 1980s, and he was always respected by my family. But there was one area on which Richard and I could not agree, and we agreed to disagree in the end. Right the way through, we respected our differences of opinion, but unfortunately he supported East Fremantle Football Club and I supported South Fremantle Football Club. There were so many things on which we were aligned, but that was one thing that we just could not come to terms with, and we agreed to disagree on that and move on. Even though I am a vice-patron of the East Fremantle footy club and I support footy more broadly, he accepted that but he really could not accept the fact that I barracked for the mighty red V.

Richard was a mentor who provided great advice, which I always respected and appreciated. He will be missed.

**MR W.R. MARMION (Nedlands)** [11.34 am]: I rise to make a brief contribution on my interaction with Richard. He was always very helpful to me, giving me advice while smiling! Whenever I was in a room he would seek me out and tell me what was going on, and give me his views on where we should be heading, and I always took that on board, of course.

I probably first met Richard when I worked as chief of staff to Peter Foss. I put it on the record that there were very strong characters in Richard Court's cabinet. As has already been highlighted, the Nationals had some very strong characters, as did the Liberal Party. Richard had the sort of personality that was able to bring them together, and I think that is a trait that is needed in a team. Richard added to that cabinet team by being able to bring together people who might have had slightly different opinions on things and to head them towards getting the job done.

Richard was a licensed surveyor. He may be the only licensed surveyor ever to have been a member of Parliament; I think that would be worth researching. I think it is important for Parliament to have people from all different professions, and I am sure the professional licensed surveyor community would be very proud that Richard gave up a very successful career to come into Parliament on a lower salary to represent the people of Western Australia.

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He knew the importance of accuracy. In his day, Richard would have been out there measuring things physically using a theodolite, translating degrees and minutes through logarithmic scales, and using a book to convert them back again after the calculations were done. Today, things have changed a lot and we have GPS instruments that make the job a lot easier.

Richard saw a lot of changes in his life. He was a valuable contributor to his profession, to the Parliament and to cabinet. I pass on my condolences to Helen, Morgen, Lachlan and all the family.

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police)** [11.36 am]: I rise to pay tribute to the life and political career of Richard Lewis. Interestingly, I am the only person in this house who actually served in Parliament with Richard Lewis. His last term coincided with my first term. He was elected in 1986 and served about seven years in opposition. In 1993, he became a minister in the first Richard Court ministry. When I arrived in Parliament in 1994, it was a very different place. I sometimes say—it offends some current members—that we had a few more “characters” in Parliament back then, and Richard was certainly one of them. Although I do not remember everyone who was in Parliament when I first arrived, Richard certainly stood out as one of the characters.

To put that in some context, I had previously been on the planning committee of Perth city council. I also served on the board of the East Perth Redevelopment Authority up until the year before my election to Parliament. Coming in here as a new, keen and enthusiastic member of Parliament, planning was something that I thought I knew something about. I was pretty intensely interested in the East Perth Redevelopment Authority, and with the enthusiasm of the now member for Dawesville, I asked Richard quite a few questions. I enthusiastically sat there during consideration in detail of planning bills and peppered him with questions. He would cope for a while and then he would give me a bit of a look as though to say, “I’ve had enough of this.” It was a very different era.

To give members some more context, the first Court ministry had only one woman, Cheryl Edwardes, so it had more the feel of a gentleman’s club than it does now. A young woman in here was quite a novelty for most of the members who had been here for a long time. There were a lot of characters in this place.

Richard and I had a few stoushes across the chamber. At one point when I was asking questions during the consideration in detail stage of a planning bill, he told me to stick to my knitting, at which I took offence. He then clarified that by saying that he was not trying to be offensive; he was just trying to suggest that I should stick to talking about something that I know something about. He had a bit of a wry smile. I had some good fun with it and got some great publicity out of it. We never took those arguments outside the chamber. Richard had a great sense of humour. He would say things like that in jest. Maybe some of those things are less politically acceptable now than they were then. There was very robust debate in this place. People would say things then that no-one would say now. We would walk out of this place and have a cup of tea, or be in the members’ bar or in the afternoon tea room and relations right across the parties were very, very good. There were some genuine friendships across Parliament. Richard was quite close friends with some of the Labor members during his time in Parliament. In my view, there were many more friendships across the house than there are these days.

In my experience, Richard generally did not take things personally. We debated the issues. We had robust arguments in Parliament but we did not take it out of here. It was never personal. On a personal level, I know that Richard had a lot of friends and supporters. He was well liked. He made a significant contribution to this state in public life. That was recognised when he was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia. Prior to coming to Parliament, he served in local government, as did I, the current Premier and many members in this house. There was no remuneration at the local government level in those days. When Richard Lewis served on the City of Melville, he received no payment. We were not even reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses. We met the cost of phone calls, petrol and other out-of-pocket expenses ourselves in order to provide that service to our local community. I applaud him and congratulate him for that. I applaud him for his service in the Parliament of Western Australia. He made a significant contribution as planning minister of this state. He was very passionate about the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. It is no coincidence that the subsequent Court government appointed him to chair the East Perth Redevelopment Authority. He leaves behind a very strong legacy.

Finally, I would like to extend my condolences to his wife, Helen, in particular, and also his children, Lachlan and Morgen. Families make a big contribution when their father or mother or spouse is elected to Parliament. If anything, in those days there was a higher expectation on the spouse of the member to attend functions and contribute to the work of the member of Parliament. Helen, thank you for the support that you gave Richard during the considerable period he spent in public life. I certainly extend my sympathy and thanks to Helen, Lachlan and Morgen.

**MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth)** [11.43 am]: I rise to talk about Richard Lewis. Everyone who has spoken in this place today has really captured the life of a wonderful person and an outstanding contributor to not only this place, but also the state of Western Australia. I got to know Richard well only about 10 years ago after the passing of the late Trevor Sprigg, who was a member of this place. Trevor was a vice-patron of East Fremantle Football

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Club. After his passing, I was invited by the club to also become a vice-patron, which I still am, along with the member for Bateman. I used to run into Richard at East Fremantle home games and I got to know more about this guy. I liked him more when I found out that he was born in Fremantle. People who were not born in Fremantle do not understand what it is like to be born in the great city of Fremantle. More importantly, Richard was born in East Fremantle. He went to Richmond Primary School, which was the same school my father attended, and was in the same class as East Fremantle legend Jack Sheedy. Richard also went to Fremantle Boys' School, which is another school that my father attended. I later attended the first John Curtin School, which was the old Fremantle Boys' School renamed. We built up a great friendship. We talked about the good old days of the East Fremantle Football Club. Unfortunately, Richard would be a bit disappointed given the way we have started this year. Everyone said that Richard was passionate about the West Coast Eagles; he had a great love for the team. I am not sure that he did not have a great love for East Fremantle because it was where he grew up. He grew up watching great legends such as Jack Sheedy, Jack Clarke, "Big Bob" Johnson and all those guys. We would reminisce about those days.

As other members have said, Richard also loved to talk about his time in this place and some of the challenges that he faced, especially the Graham Farmer Freeway, which I think is the greatest bit of infrastructure in this state's history. Before it was built, if we wanted to travel from the airport to the northern suburbs, we had to drive down St Georges Terrace. Richard had a big involvement in that.

In more recent times, Helen and Richard moved into South Perth and became my constituents. Richard was often on the phone. Because of his planning background, he gave a lot of advice to the local residents' action group because of all the changes down on the South Perth peninsula. He was often on the phone giving me advice on what should and should not be done. John Day, the Minister for Planning under the Barnett government, sometimes got a mention in those dispatches.

Richard was also very close to the former Premier, the member for Cottesloe. I guess they worked in cabinet together. He would say to me, "I've got to get on to Colin about this." I would say, "Good luck, Richard." He would say, "No, I'll get him. We'll go and sit down and have a glass of wine." He was very close to the former Premier and I am sure he would have given very good advice. Richard was very passionate about the Liberal Party; he loved the Liberal Party. When any of us had a function, Richard would be the first one to say that he would be there. He supported a lot of new members and gave a lot of good advice.

I will miss Richard at the footy. It was great that he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the 2019 Australia Day honours list earlier this year. When we look at what he has done and after listening to what other members said about Richard's contribution to the state, it was probably long overdue. It is great that he received the honour and I am sure he enjoyed being given that recognition.

In closing, I would like to express my condolences to Helen and members of his family, and Roger, whom I also know. Richard was a member of Royal Perth Golf Club. He and I had a few games of golf. I do not think either of us shot the lights out but he was always good company. Condolences to you, Helen, and the family.

**The SPEAKER:** I request that all members rise for one minute's silence in support of this motion.

Question passed; members and officers standing as a mark of respect.