

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BICYCLE ENGRAVING PROGRAM**

*Statement by Member for Gosnells*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells)** [12.51 pm]: I rise to congratulate the members of the Gosnells District Neighbourhood Watch for their latest initiative—the Neighbourhood Watch bike engraving program. I was delighted to participate in the program by having my own bike engraved when the program visited Yale Primary School in Thornlie on Friday, 2 March. The police say that the program helps with the return of lost and stolen property and can deter would-be thieves. As a keen cyclist and, sadly, a victim of bike theft in the past, I can see what a good idea this is, and it is doubly excellent because it is completely free of charge. The bike engraving project is carried out by volunteers and these people engrave children's bikes, scooters or skateboards with a driver's licence number—a parent's licence number in the case of children—so that lost and found, or even stolen and found, equipment can be returned. Seven schools were visited by the program in the last term of 2011, and Yale Primary School was the second school to be visited this year out of a planned seven.

I urge all students and parents to use this free community service while it is available. I especially want to acknowledge the contribution of Mrs Pauline Prosser and Councillor Terry Brown, who have led the program and actually done the engraving of many bikes and scooters. While it is good news that more bikes than cars are sold each year in Australia, it seems that the frequency of thefts is growing. A bike is a magnificently efficient form of transport, but we need better cycleways and we also need better means of storing bikes securely.