

POLLIE PEDAL — WANDERING WARRIORS

Statement

HON STEVE MARTIN (Agricultural) [6.44 pm]: On a somewhat lighter note, I rise to inform members that the annual Pollie Pedal fundraising cycling event is coming to the west for the first time in October. The Pollie Pedal has been in operation since 1998. It is a bipartisan fundraising event that is designed to head out to regional areas of the country and connect those small communities with their elected representatives. It has raised over \$7 million for charity and previous participants have cycled more than 23 000 kilometres. I will be attempting to squeeze myself into some very saggy lycra and head south with the other —

Hon Stephen Dawson: We will sponsor you without you telling us that stuff.

Hon STEVE MARTIN: It is not a pretty picture. I might wear the lycra in here! No, I definitely will not. It is a 1 000-kilometre event that sets off on 7 October. It is very fortunate for me that it is actually a sitting week, so I will do the three days before the sitting week, come in here for three days, and then do the two days at the end of the event, which will still cover about 600 to 700 kilometres. As I said, it is a bipartisan event. I believe that Hon Matt Keogh is taking part and I have heard a whisper that the member for Thornlie, Chris Tallentire, who can actually cycle, is also taking part. He will do the 1 000 kilometres without breaking into a sweat. Kate Chaney, the federal member for Curtin, is involved, as is Angus Taylor and Andrew Hastie and hopefully plenty of others. If members wish to hire an e-bike and join in for a leg, it is a wonderful event. We are heading south of Perth for about 500 kilometres and then coming back to Perth, weather—no, not weather permitting. We will do it in the rain.

Hon Dr Steve Thomas: Going through the best country.

Hon STEVE MARTIN: Exactly. It is all downhill, apparently. That is happening on 7 October. I will be reaching out to members for donations, which is the important bit. This year the event will be raising funds for a veterans' organisation called the Wandering Warriors. I read out a little bit about what it does. It is a national charity that was established in 2013. It is mainly focused on special operations veterans. The WW provide service to other Australian Defence Force veterans as time and resources allow. It supports veterans through its education, respite, mentoring and employment programs, and it operates with almost 100 per cent volunteer work force to keep its overheads low. Over the past decade, WW has facilitated education scholarships worth over \$3 million in partnership with leading educational institutions. It is a worthy cause and I urge members to get involved. Thank you.