

**BON SCOTT MEMORIAL GATE**

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister for Local Government)** [12.47 pm]: I am delighted to rise today to inform the house that the Bon Scott memorial gate at Fremantle Cemetery has been reinstated! Bon Scott, the frontman of iconic rock band AC/DC, is a Western Australian legend. Formed in 1973, AC/DC is renowned for being one of the most influential Australian music acts of all time. The band has left an indelible mark on the music scene in Australia and overseas. Many notable musicians cite AC/DC as an influence, including Josh Homme of Queens of the Stone Age, Dave Grohl of Nirvana and Foo Fighters, and bands such as Metallica, Slayer, Exodus and The Living End. Bon was born and died overseas, but grew up in Fremantle, attending North Fremantle Primary School and later John Curtin College of the Arts. Each year, thousands of visitors pass through a memorial gate near the corner of Leach Highway and Carrington Street to pay their respects to the idolised musician. The memorial is a drawcard for Fremantle. In 2006, in recognition of Bon's remarkable contribution to the field of music, the site was deemed a place of cultural significance by the National Trust of Australia.

Sadly, the Bon Scott memorial gate fell on *Hard Times* when it was *Shot in the Dark* by a car on the *Highway to Hell* earlier this year. I can imagine some members of the community exclaiming "Hells Bells" when they heard the news of the gate's demise. So, I stepped the team at the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board to repair and reinstate the memorial gate. On Friday, 15 March I had the pleasure of fastening the final bolt onto the repaired gate in the company of Hon Simone McGurk, MLA, in her capacity as the hardworking and hard rocking member for Fremantle. To quote the honourable member for Fremantle, she was "*Thunderstruck* by how solid the repairs to the Bon Scott memorial gate are." I am pleased the Bon Scott memorial gate is *Back in Black* and that many thousands of people are able to enjoy the Bon Scott memorial for years to come.