

**WA BREWERS ASSOCIATION INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARD — BRIAN FITZGERALD**

*Statement*

**HON JACKIE JARVIS (South West — Minister for Agriculture and Food)** [6.19 pm]: I rise tonight to speak about the recent opportunity I had to attend the 2023 WA Beer & Brewing Conference. I hasten to add that was in a professional capacity as the minister for beer! It was my honour, while there, to present an industry recognition award to Mr Brian Fitzgerald. For those who are not aware, Brian operates Artisan Brewing, a family-owned craft brewery in Denmark. While I was there, I got to speak about Mr Fitzgerald. The industry recognition award is sponsored by the Cook government through our Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to recognise a person who has made a significant difference to developing the beer and brewing industry—and not through consumption, I should add! The award recognises someone who has made a significant difference, driven change or demonstrated a significant commitment to the betterment of the industry.

Brian has been passionately involved in establishing and growing the WA brewing community for the last 20 years. He has been the longest-serving president of the Western Australian Brewers Association and during that time has been instrumental in advocating for liquor licensing reform in WA. He is renowned for his mentoring and support of other brewers and is well respected in business, brewing and making a difference to the quality of beer production across WA. He was Australia's first certified cicerone. I had to look up that word. A cicerone is someone with proven experience in selecting, acquiring and serving a wide range of beers. He was Australia's first certified cicerone in 2011. He continues to advocate for education and excellence in the world of beer and brewing. He has been the recipient of many awards and is famously known in Australian brewing circles as producing some of the best Belgian beers outside of Belgium. Brian, together with his wife Julia, settled in Denmark many years ago. Brian was planning to retire after a career in geophysics of all things. But instead, they chose to start Artisan Brewing in Denmark.

Earlier this evening I had the opportunity to chat with the member for Warren–Blackwood and the member for Albany, who both assured me that beer lovers in the great southern are pleased that Brian postponed his retirement plans. The Artisan Brewing company is well known and, as I said, he is well known amongst brewing circles.

**Hon Dr Steve Thomas:** I can personally recommend him.

**Hon JACKIE JARVIS:** There we go—a personal recommendation. I was at the Beer & Brewing Conference at eight o'clock in the morning so I did not partake on that occasion. I have told my staff that future conferences of that ilk should be held in the evening. I want to finish by saying there are numerous reasons that I have outlined in this speech and many more why Brian Fitzgerald received the 2023 WA Brewers Association industry recognition award.