

JOHN PATE, AM — TRIBUTE

Statement by Member for Warren–Blackwood

MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood) [12.52 pm]: Earlier this year, we lost a highly respected Western Australian and Denmark resident. Emeritus Professor John Pate, botanist, researcher, teacher, author, husband and proud father, was 91 years old. His legacy will live on. Albert Einstein said that by looking deep into nature, we will understand everything better. Professor Pate devoted his life to doing exactly that. His fascination with plant science began in the United Kingdom during the Second World War, when his family grew peas and beans to combat food shortages. He studied at Queen’s University Belfast, and his journey eventually took him to the University of Western Australia, where he served as professor of botany for 27 years. Professor Pate’s research has helped us to better understand our natural environment, the stresses on our precious ecosystem and the productivity of our pastures and crops through his research into the carbon and nitrogen economies of plants. He was a world leader in his field, being a fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the Royal Society in London; a recipient of the Australian Minerals and Energy Environment Foundation Award and the Centenary Medal in 2001; and inducted into the Premier’s Western Australian Science Hall of Fame in 2017. This year, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his significant service to botany and tertiary education. Our thoughts are with Professor Pate’s wife, Trudy; his sons, David, Michael and Stephen; his four grandchildren; his great-granddaughter; and his sister, Sheila Cross.