

VIOLET SANDS

Statement by Member for Victoria Park

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [12.57 pm]: I rise today to acknowledge the passing of a dear friend, neighbour and constituent, Violet Sands. Violet was in her late 90s, and I will say no more than that about her age because Vi was adamant that no-one would ever know her real age; it was a philosophy she stuck to for the more than 20 years I knew her. Vi was the treasurer of the Carlisle Ward Residents and Ratepayers Association for nearly 20 years and was a passionate constituent and advocate for her community. I saw her just a few hours before she died, and right up to the moment of her passing she was still alert and fighting the good fight for perhaps her most famous battle—to stop the redevelopment of the Red Castle Hotel site in Lathlain; she lived right next door. I note on my files that there was a letter from Geoff Gallop in 1994, stating that she had campaigned against the redevelopment of the site for 27 years, which suggests she fought against it for nearly 50 years.

Vi lived across the road from me in Lathlain when I was growing up and all through my school and university years. She never married, but undertook to look after her sister, Mavis, who passed away some 12 years ago. She was from England originally, and her only direct family in Australia was her cats. I offer my condolences to everyone in Lathlain and Carlisle on the passing of a wonderful constituent.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm