

Bomber anoints successor

By **FIONA ROSS-EDWARDS**

GARY Gray has stepped up as the Labor candidate ready to fill the shoes of Brand MHR Kim Beazley.

The Alfred Cove resident has been endorsed as the Labor Party's pre-selection candidate for the Federal Seat of Brand.

Mr Gray, born in Yorkshire, England, said he had been a member of the Labor Party since 1974.

"I have been a national official since 1986, and in 1993 I became the national secretary," he said.

"Politics has always been in my blood. When Kim announced his intentions to resign it became clear for me to stand. I've had a lot of sup-

port locally and I have Kim's support."

Mr Gray resigned as national secretary in 2000, and moved from Canberra to Perth to be closer to his wife's family.

He was director of external affairs for Woodside Energy from 2001 until January this year, when he resigned to run for the Seat of Brand.

"For the next five to six months, I intend to get to know people and community organisations in the electorate," he said.

"The electorate is so large and complex, and the communities are so diverse. Challenges that face people living and building in Man-

durah are quite different to those facing Rockingham and Kwinana."

The father of three, who was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2003, acknowledged the large shoes he had to fill if elected.

"I find myself running for a position which has a pedigree of the highest quality," he said.

"There wouldn't be a federal member who has had more of an impact on a community than Kim."

Mr Beazley said the seat of Brand would be in good hands with Mr Gray.

He said Mr Gray was close to being one of the best politicians in the country.



Kim Beazley with Labor candidate for Brand, Gary Gray, at Churchill Park. Picture: Neil Mulligan

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