

2013 PERTH AIRPORT WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Planning

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Planning) [9.06 am]: I rise on behalf of the Minister for Tourism to update the house on the outcome of the 2013 Perth Airport Western Australian Tourism Awards, which I attended last Saturday on behalf of the Premier and the Minister for Tourism. The awards were held at the Grand Ballroom, Crown Perth, with almost 850 guests representing the state's tourism industry. A record number of entries were received for this year's awards with 147 finalists vying for glory, up from 129 finalists last year. Pleasingly, there were many first-time entrants.

The tourism awards were established in 1972 at the suggestion of caravan industry pioneer Mr John Wood, of the Fleetwood Group of Companies, as a tangible way of recognising and rewarding excellence in the tourism industry. At that time and for many years afterwards there was only one award, the Sir David Brand Award for Tourism, named after Western Australia's longest-serving Premier, who was also Minister for Tourism. The award process and gala ceremony were originally organised by the state government through its tourism agency. However, they are now coordinated by the peak industry body, the Tourism Council Western Australia. Forty-one years on, the awards have grown to 32 categories covering the full range of tourism products, from accommodation to visitor servicing and everything in between. There are four special categories: the Forum Advocating Cultural and Eco Tourism Golden Guide Award; Sir David Brand Young Achiever Medal; Sir David Brand Medal; and the pinnacle of industry achievement, the Sir David Brand Award for Tourism.

Winners of 27 category awards will compete against state and territory winners across the country at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards, to be held in Sydney on 7 February 2014. A complete list of the worthy WA winners for 2013 is available on the Tourism Council's website at www.tourismcouncilwa.com.au. I am pleased to advise members that the major award for overall excellence, the Sir David Brand Award for Tourism, was won by Kings Park and Botanic Garden for its outstanding achievements in promoting and servicing the WA tourism industry. A number of operators and organisations were also inducted into the hall of fame, having won their category for three consecutive years. Lady Brand represented her late husband on the night, having celebrated her ninety-second birthday the day before. In the event's 41-year history, Lady Brand has attended all but one awards function, which in itself is an impressive achievement. The state government is a strong supporter of WA's tourism industry, which employs 89 000 people and generates \$7.5 billion for the state's economy. I wish WA finalists every success at the national awards in February and encourage all members, their families and friends to sample the state's award-winning tourism products.