

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Troy Buswell; Mr Tom Stephens; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Chris
Tallentire; Mr Ben Wyatt

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Motion

MR J.N. HYDE (Perth) [4.01 pm]: I move —

That this house expresses its grave concern at the continued decline of the Western Australian tourism industry and condemns the Minister for Tourism for her lack of interest and demonstrated failures in this portfolio.

Tourism operators in regional Western Australia are watching today's debate live on the internet. They and others want to hear the minister's response as a matter of urgency. They want to know her vision. They want to know what she is doing to turn around the massive decline in visitor numbers to regional Western Australia and to all of Western Australia. Tourism Western Australia's report published in June 2010 reveals the tourism figures in this state for the year ended March 2010. Let us drill down into those figures. Visitor numbers to the golden outback are down 21 per cent, with actual visitor nights down a massive 26.3 per cent; in the north west, numbers are down 8.2 per cent; in the south west, 7.3 per cent; and on the coral coast, 10.7 per cent. It is all very well for the National Party to say that 37 extra people have gone through the doors of the Margaret River tourist bureau because of the CowParade, but let us look at the visitor numbers for the south west. If all those visitors were going to the CowParade, the real figures and impact on tourism in the south west would be even more horrendous, because the tourism figures for the year ended March 2010 are down 7.3 per cent.

Tourism operators in this state talk with their colleagues in Victoria, and during discussions with a number of the hotel developers in Victoria, they asked them why they were investing in Victoria and building a whole gamut of five-star accommodation across Victoria. Their response was that Tourism Victoria can deliver visitor volume and it can give them the confidence to make these investments. That is unlike what is happening in this state. Why are developers not building massive new hotels in this state? The Tourism WA report spells it out. The latest average revenue per available room in Western Australia is down 4.5 per cent. Hotel operators are not getting the added benefit from tourism in Western Australia or from Eventscorp to increase their revenue for existing hotel rooms, let alone the confidence required so that developers can build new ones. More recent REVPAR figures for 2010 indicate that the situation has worsened this year and we are looking at a 9.7 per cent decline for the year ending March 2010. These are Tourism WA's figures; there is a 9.7 per cent decline already. We no longer have the Red Bull Air Race in the CBD, which was a huge tourism driver in the CBD. What is the minister going to do? She should tell us, my constituents and our regional tourism operators who are watching this debate live exactly what she is going to do to reverse this decline.

There are key elements in the performance of the Barnett government in the tourism portfolio that are lacking and go a long way to explaining the massive decline in figures. We seem to have a government that is largely uninterested in tourism and events. We are going back to treating this portfolio as a silo. We have had a loss of events and missed event opportunities. The government appears to have been spurred to action only by constant prodding from the Labor opposition. We have lost the Johnnie Walker Classic and the V8 Supercars Australia event, which was recently rescued by the Premier when he announced it in Kings Park in the electorate of Perth. Apparently the race is happening elsewhere, but it was a lovely photo opportunity in my electorate! We have also lost the Perth International Super Series Bowls, the Polocrosse Australian National Championships, the Australian Transplant Games, and the BMX National Championships. Of course, there is also the massively deserved controversy over the One Movement Music Festival funding. It was very expensive. There was a very low return on the investment. There was fudging of attendance figures and loose criteria for promoters to increase their funding.

Key review reports have also been released only after pressure from the Labor opposition. These reports relate to tourism accommodation, regional tourism organisations and the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Committee. We have had a structural review of Tourism WA, but the report has not been released. The Barnett government's theme of no transparency continues when it keeps reports in-house and does not release them. We have had budget cuts. The destination marketing budget has been cut by \$10 million. A new marketing campaign was based on a taxi ride. Dubious judgement was shown in the decision to embark on this campaign. It has been unsuccessful in turning around visitor numbers. The government's own figures show that; the projection figures show that. The government cannot accuse us, the tourism operators or the Australian Hotels Association of crying wolf. The real figures are there and they are in this report. The minister was even absent from the taxi ride campaign—as was the ignition initially on the taxi!

The Premier seems to have had to step in and intervene in this portfolio on a number of very pertinent occasions. I will mention later yet another occasion on which he should step in. The refusal to host the Danny Green fight

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and then the backflip were handled by the Premier. Of course, the Premier also came to the rescue with the recent V8 Supercars announcement in Kings Park, where none of the V8s will be racing, but it was a wonderful photo background.

Let us look at the One Movement Music Festival. Something in me says that for the good of Western Australia, the One Movement festival is about the only major event that we have left. The opposition may be forced to again come to the government's aid and start supporting it to try to make One Movement work; otherwise, we will have to wait until the 2013 election when we will show the government how it should have been and will be done under a Labor government. This government is failing to boost inbound tourism. The government's own figures to March 2010 show that the One Movement festival made nary a blip on our incoming tourism figures last year. With the October 2010 festival to be held in just a few weeks, its international profile is absolutely tiny. In the figures that covered last October's One Movement, intrastate figures declined by 14.4 per cent and international visitors coming for holidays or pleasure declined by 1.9 per cent—more importantly, much more than the national average. Interstate figures were boosted by the wonderful Red Bull event that was held last year. We will not be having that this year. What will we get in its stead? The minister needs to tell us now. What major, major events will the minister be bringing in that will garner the same support and give the same embellishment of tourism in the state that the Red Bull event gave us? The guts of it are that for the state's \$3 million investment in One Movement we are not getting a proper return.

Perth may be the world's most isolated capital city, but Reykjavik in Iceland is the second most isolated and it is gaining major publicity. We have got a vacuum from One Movement. Reykjavik is also having its major music festival in October, which is the same time as One Movement. One Movement's MuseExpo website lists only two major sponsors—Eventscorp and the City of Perth—with no airline sponsors, despite being just four and a half hours from Asia. The Mundaring Truffle Festival in Kalamunda a few weeks ago brought down hordes of people from Singapore. The minister cannot even get any to turn up to this major \$3 million investment in the One Movement music Festival.

The Iceland Airwaves festival has major airline sponsorship. It is bringing in American tourists from Seattle and Orlando to the festival, which is seven hours away, on \$US599 package deals to Reykjavik. Why are Eventscorp and the minister not engaging with all the airlines that are taking Australians out of Western Australia to tourism places in Asia? Why are they not engaging with them to get the airlines to bring people down for One Movement and for the decreasing number of events that we have here? The Iceland Airwaves festival will be providing an event with over 200 bands and bringing people from the United States, Europe and further away than we are from Asia. Although One Movement is lacking major airline sponsorship, Australian airlines do sponsor festivals. Jetstar Airways sponsors the Nation Party in Phuket and flies in thousands of tourists, and Virgin Australia sponsors the Mardi Gras in Sydney, taking tens of thousands of festival goers to New South Wales from the United States, and even the member for Vasse on a stopover.

I applaud the minister's move to recognise that big arts events are potential tourism drivers. I think that is one area of her portfolio that should be applauded. But the government's efforts so far have been tepid. The boutique *A Day in Pompeii* exhibition is nice, but it has already been to Melbourne and elsewhere.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Where else has it been?

Mr J.N. HYDE: It has been to Melbourne.

Mr T.R. Buswell: You said that. You said "elsewhere"; where else in Australia?

Mr J.N. HYDE: To Melbourne, on the east coast of Australia. We have a collection from one of the minor Guggenheims coming through. The minister needs to be funding major unique arts events—I literally mean unique, not some repackaged exhibition, play or entertainment—that will convince Sydneysiders, Singaporeans and Melbournians to have a weekend or a few days in Perth, and then the minister can tempt them to explore Western Australia further. That is what the Red Bull event did, and the minister has lost it. She and her advisers must have attended many nosh-ups and drinks during the Red Bull event last year. Surely, the trained expertise in her portfolio would have been attuned to the signals about the Red Bull event's future and be ready with a replacement. Budapest was ready. Budapest lost Red Bull, but the people there are not just whingeing about Red Bull; they have got on with replacement events. They already have the Sziget Festival in 2010, which is one of the largest major and music events, lasting for an entire week, on the island in the middle of the Danube River between Buda and Pest. This festival has been beefed up. Swimming, diving, synchronised swimming and other water European championships were held in Budapest on a four-yearly basis. They have now decided to hold those every two years. That has been one of the immediate decisions. Budapest and many of the other great

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tourism places that benefited from Red Bull were ready, got plans in action and are funding replacements to keep its tourists coming in.

In May 2010 the minister's Tourism WA statement revealed that the staff of Tourism WA would be reduced from the current 159 positions to 74 full-time equivalent positions over two years. The minister also stated in that statement that Tourism WA's seven regional offices located in Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie and Karratha will be closed by the end of 2010. My regional colleagues on this side will be speaking on the effect of that and the other effects on regional tourism in their areas. I like this sentence in the minister's statement because it is code for her closing down our overseas offices. She said —

... Tourism WA will contract local marketing agencies in the UK, Germany, Japan and China to take over services in those markets. This approach is already working in ...

“Other places”, which is code for “closed it down”. To close our Japanese presence alone would be crazy. I am sure this will be one where the Premier will step in to eventually intervene and reverse this move, because the Premier knows that our relationship with Japan has been built over 40 to 45 years by a great array of different initiatives. We do not want the tourism silo to be spitting the dummy, taking its bat and ball and coming home. We need a strong presence in Japan. We do need a strong presence overseas.

We feel and the industry feels that the Barnett government has shown indifference to tourism. It is important as an economic driver and also as a driver in the development of this state. We have lost events, we have had real budget cuts and we are looking at the possible privatisation of a number of tourism operations. More importantly, we have had the non-release of key reports to take this industry forward. We want a short debate. I will sit down very shortly and one of my colleagues will speak. We invite the minister to stand and tell the tourism operators of Western Australia, who are listening and watching this debate live, what her vision is and what her response is in order to reverse these figures that her own tourism report has shown—the massive decline in the 12 months to March 2010 under her watch. She is in charge. The buck stops with her. We want her vision and we want to know how she is turning this industry around.

MR M. MCGOWAN (Rockingham) [4.17 pm]: I am happy to contribute to this debate. As members will know, I was a Minister for Tourism for one year.

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am happy to talk about that as well. I have had considerable experience with the industry, as have other members of the house, particularly the member for Vasse, who I suspect will have some words to say about it.

Tourism is a very important industry in this state. The member for Perth has set it out very well. He is a former tourism operator, as I understand it. There are members in the house who have had some experience directly in the industry and other members who have had experience in government in the industry. I think it is a wonderful industry. It is one of those industries in which people are predominantly involved in small businesses around Western Australia. It involves people who want to have a go with an idea. Often it is a bit of a niche and a bit out there, and people invest their money in it. Often the people who get into the industry have come from an employed position in a major company or something like that, and they go out and try something new. It is innovative, exciting, full of exciting people and full of good people around Western Australia. It is a very important industry in the country. A lot of regions around Western Australia do not have mining as a backbone. Lots of parts of Western Australia do not have resources. Lots of parts of Western Australia do not have agriculture. What they have is their natural beauty and their appeal for people who want to experience and see them. Those areas rely very heavily on tourism. Kimberley is one that springs to mind, the south west is another and the Great Southern to some degree is another.

Regional Western Australia relies very heavily upon this industry for its income, employment and jobs, and it is the same situation in Perth: the entire Perth hospitality industry is dependent upon intrastate, interstate and international tourism for its success. We have an excellent hospitality industry and an excellent accommodation industry in our capital city, and both of them are very heavily dependent upon people coming from elsewhere. That is why this debate is very important. It is important because the figures on the number of people holidaying in Western Australia from Western Australia and those coming from interstate to this state to holiday are devastating. It is devastating for the industry and concerning for anyone who has invested their livelihood and their life in their businesses to see the decline in the number of people holidaying at home and the number of people coming from interstate to holiday in Western Australia. I will deal with international travellers later. However, the backbone of the industry is Western Australians holidaying in their own state, and there has been a

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shocking decline in the number of people who choose to stay at home to holiday here. The figures released by Tourism WA show a 15 per cent decline, roughly, in visitors over the past year, and a 12 per cent decline over three years in the number of people holidaying at home.

Western Australia has come out of economic difficulties, as has the rest of Australia. As a country, we never went into recession. Members might think that even if we were in economic trouble, which people might argue, surely that would mean more people would be holidaying at home and fewer people would be travelling overseas. That is the normal way these things work, but we have seen a shocking decline in the number of Western Australians holidaying in this state. Even Tourism WA, which must be devastated and perhaps embarrassed by these figures, says that the figures are worse than the national figures and figures for the other states and territories by a big, big margin. In the past year Western Australia's rate has declined by 14 to 16 per cent, depending upon whether the number is counted in nights, visitors or spend, while the national average shows a decline of between one per cent and three per cent. Our figures, based on the best interpretation, are five times worse. If members want to put the other interpretation on it, the figures for people holidaying in their own state are 10 times worse. That is an issue worthy of being raised in this place.

The figures for people visiting from interstate, rather than people from our own state holidaying at home—remembering that 80 per cent of the nights spent by people who holiday in Western Australia are spent by Western Australians—are shocking again with a decline of between 10 and 20 per cent. In terms of nights spent in Western Australia, there has been a 20 per cent decline over three years, and in the past year there has been a 12 per cent decline in people from interstate holidaying in Western Australia. These figures represent a shocking decline.

What does that do for people who run businesses? What does that do for people who run bus companies or entrepreneurs who run hotels and rely upon those people from Western Australia and interstate? It puts their mortgages under stress, it puts their businesses under stress, and it puts their finances under stress. There are 80 000 or so Western Australians who rely upon this industry, and they are in that position right now because of these declines.

During question time I heard the Minister for Tourism say that we have had a two per cent increase in international visitors; although we have had a decline of between 10 and 20 per cent in intrastate visitors. But when it is averaged out, there has been a massive decline in people holidaying in Western Australia—that is, tourists coming to this state. There must be a reason behind that. We can argue that the world has been through some troubles and so forth, but that does not explain why Western Australians are not holidaying at home. That does not explain why people from interstate are not coming here. It is nonsensical to say that there is some explanation there. We need to get to the bottom of the matter and to improve the situation. I do not blame the minister completely, but the government should be doing some things.

Firstly, to have a Minister for Tourism for whom tourism is a tiny portfolio compared with her other portfolios is a huge mistake. I have said that three or four times in this Parliament. I have been both education and tourism minister; I have done both. Tourism has only a \$60 million or so budget compared with education, which has a \$4 billion budget. The tourism budget is a small amount of money in comparison. Nevertheless, I tell members what: the number of people out there who rely upon the tourism minister is huge. The number of businesses, events and functions that people expect the minister to attend and show the flag and the number of times people expect the minister to accompany them overseas are huge. If the minister wants to do the job properly, the workload in tourism is huge. It is a big mistake to have both of those portfolios together, because they cannot be handled properly. Of course, education will demand the minister's attention. We have hundreds of thousands of kids at school, we have a massive budget, and we have 700 or 800 schools. Of course, that portfolio will demand the vast majority of the minister's attention, and she can only give a small amount to tourism.

We should move in the opposite direction. When the minister was in opposition, she came into this place and moved matters of public interest and suspensions of standing orders and so forth, and she always said, "Let's have a standalone tourism minister." She did that on numerous times in this place; I saw it. When we were in government, we did not have a standalone tourism minister either, but in my experience we had portfolios that related. If someone is tourism minister and racing and gaming minister, the portfolios kind of relate. When I reformed the state's liquor laws, it related to tourism, and the tourism industry broadly—not entirely, but broadly—applauded, because they related and they were involved. Having the south west portfolio mixed in with tourism related; there is a huge tourism industry in the south west. But perhaps we should go to a standalone tourism minister; that would be a better outcome to what we have now. At the moment, we do not even have a chief executive officer in tourism, as the minister sacked the former tourism CEO, Richard Muirhead.

Dr E. Constable: That's not true.

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Mr M. McGOWAN: I know Richard Muirhead very well. He would have done anything for the tourism industry; he was totally committed to the tourism industry. The minister got rid of him and gave him a redundancy and said, “You have to pay the redundancy back now so that we can get you to run CHOGM because Deidre’s gone somewhere else after being knocked off for preselection.” It is an overused term in Australia these days, but what has gone on is like a soap opera. We do not have a CEO, and we have a minister who should give up the portfolio and give it to someone else who can devote the necessary time to it. I am not saying that that was the minister’s choice, because I do not think it was. However, the Premier should say when he has the reshuffle at Christmas that he will give the tourism portfolio to someone who can devote time to it. Get a full-time CEO in there. Stop using Kate Lamont as the de facto minister. Kate Lamont is a good person. We put her on the Tourism Commission, and I think we might have even made her chair. It was shocking to see her on the television trying to answer the questions that the minister should have been answering. I felt sorry for her. She should never have allowed herself to be put in that position. She is a good businessperson who runs a good business and is respected throughout Western Australia. To have her out there doing that and being put in that position was bad for her and it was bad for tourism, and it was bad for this government because the minister’s role is to be out there answering those questions.

Let us get back to basics. To get people to holiday here and to get Western Australians to holiday at home relies upon good product in this industry. Western Australians want to experience good product. If the product is not good, they will go elsewhere. That is what the people who have experience in the industry say. Laurie O’Meara and other such people have always said that accreditation and quality product are the things people want to see in Western Australia; they are the keys to making our Western Australian tourism industry work.

I know members opposite will raise Rally Australia, and I am happy to answer that question now. When we were in government, we created national parks throughout the south west, and we advertised around the world. We created marine parks that we advertised around the world because they are Western Australia’s strong suit. They are what works to attract people to this state. Our natural beauty and natural environment works. We also put in additional marketing expenditure, made huge improvements to the infrastructure at Rottnest, and started the Perth Arena project, which will attract events when it opens. We also had the Johnnie Walker golf tournament, two Australian tourism exchanges, and we created a regional tourism organisations network with five offices around Western Australia; they were a brilliant success. We brought in the National Surf Lifesaving Championships. We opened overseas offices, which it appears the government is getting rid of. We have staff on the ground in Japan, China, Korea, Singapore and those sorts of places—I went and opened them myself. When we have people on the ground, they actually integrate with industry. Those sorts of places rely on that and the industry in Western Australia knows that we have to have that sort of on-the-ground presence overseas. We attracted Jetstar to this state; Jetstar came to this state to offer additional air services. We reformed the state’s liquor laws.

However, I will talk about the Red Bull Air Race. I know that government members will talk about the Red Bull Air Race and also Rally Australia. Okay, I cancelled Rally Australia on the unanimous advice of the tourism commission board. That decision was endorsed by the industry; I can pull out all the clippings. The entire industry said that \$6 million for one event returning roughly \$1.50 or so per dollar spent was way too much, and the cost of the event was going up or doubling every year. We were being gouged. We were being ripped off. Members opposite can shake their heads all they like, but they were not there. We were being gouged and ripped off by the promoters of that event and the time had come to say “no more”. We said, “Stop gouging this state and stop demanding that amount of money for one event or else we will say ‘no more’.” The promoters did not stop because that is what they do; they gouge and they rip off because they do not think that anyone will have the guts to stand up to them. I stood up to them and I said no more. What did I do then? I secured the Red Bull Air Race. It was pooh-pooed by the Liberal Party at the time, yet it cost roughly one-third what Rally Australia did. Whilst Rally Australia had 30 000 people involved, the Red Bull Air Race had 300 000 people at roughly one-third of the cost. Do the maths on that and say what the better event is! Go to the foreshore with 300 000 people there and ask which event is better. We secured that. I secured that and I say to the people who liked Rally Australia, “I’m sorry; I know you did but I was not prepared for the state to be gouged any more.” However, I was prepared to find something else. We went and found one of the best events, if not the best spectator event, in the world. It was probably the best event that this country has ever seen.

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Can the member tell me a better one?

Mr T.R. Buswell: The Grand Prix.

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Mr M. McGOWAN: Okay, the Grand Prix—\$50 million or \$60 million for one event. We were getting the Red Bull Air Race for \$2 million. Do the maths on that, my friend! I have seen car racing and I have seen the air race and my judgement is that —

Mr T.R. Buswell interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Knock the Red Bull Air Race all you like, my friend! I am attempting —

Mr J.E. McGrath: They were all local people; how many people came from overseas?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Huge numbers. The Tourism Commission will tell the member that it was an event for which the expenditure was worthwhile. Members can stand and say that I cancelled the rally; fine, I will wear that. A lot of people did not like it. I accept that. However, I can also say that I replaced it. The government does not have a replacement; all it has done is lose event after event after event. The member for Perth has listed them and the government does not have replacements. That is the difference.

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [4.33 pm]: Mr Acting Speaker —

Mr M. McGowan: Where's the minister?

Dr E. Constable: I'll speak when I'm good and ready.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): Thank you, Leader of the House; I have given the call to the Minister for Culture and the Arts.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Warnbro!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: There is a story in tourism as far as this government is concerned and I am very happy to speak about part of it. The aspect that I will focus on is the importance of events. As the opposition has highlighted, there is the importance of our natural assets—the blue skies, beaches, wonderful natural environment and so on—the importance of attracting both local residents and visitors to Western Australia, and the importance of supporting the tourism industry to have a range of events and other attractions that will encourage people to come to this state.

In the past couple of years we have seen—I can say with strong personal interest from the Minister for Tourism—a greater focus on encouraging and developing events in the culture and arts arena as well as the sporting arena. Historically, there has been a greater focus on supporting events, through Eventscorp as part of the tourism portfolio, that occur in the sporting arena, but I am now very pleased to say that we are seeing a broadening of that approach. There are a number of examples of that, the most recent of which was highlighted in the media only on Monday; that is, the partnership that has been established for the first time between the Perth Theatre Trust and Eventscorp in the tourism portfolio, as well as Kay and McLean Productions. All that effort has resulted in the play *The Graduate* being presented in Perth in a couple of weeks time with, as we well know, international actors Jerry Hall and Rider Strong, who were attracted to Perth to actually —

Ms M.M. Quirk: It's a commercial enterprise!

Dr E. Constable: Most events are commercial enterprises!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The point that the opposition does not appreciate is that these things simply do not happen by accident; they happen because of a considered process and a change of approach by the government, through the Minister for Tourism in particular, who, as I said, has been very keen to broaden Eventscorp's role to involve the culture and the arts portfolio. Therefore, *The Graduate* will be presented in Perth and I am sure that it will do very well at His Majesty's Theatre.

Another example of a successful partnership that has come from this greater interaction between the tourism and the culture and the arts portfolios is the exhibition that is currently at the Western Australian Museum—namely, *A Day in Pompeii*. It is certainly attracting a lot of interest, as I hope that many members will now be aware because the Minister for Tourism and I took the opportunity of sending all members a couple of tickets so that they had the opportunity to attend.

Mr P.B. Watson: Is it still going?

Mr J.H.D. DAY: Yes it is on until early September and it was recently extended by a week, so that is good news. The Museum is also opening on Friday nights. That is a world-class exhibition here in Perth and of a lot of interest to both local residents and visitors. So far, approximately 73 000 people have visited the exhibition.

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Eventscorp's financial support for that presentation will be returned. It is certainly doing very well indeed. *A Day in Pompeii* was previously in Australia in Melbourne, which was to be the only Australian city where it would be presented. However, through some astute work by Eventscorp and the WA Museum, it was able to be attracted to Perth through a range of circumstances. Again, those things simply do not happen by accident; they happen because of some sensible work, and reflect the greater interest by Eventscorp and the Minister for Tourism in getting a broader range of events to Perth.

Another partnership example will open in Perth at the beginning of October. I think the member for Perth made some comment about this exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. From the bit that I heard on the TV system, I think he was making some sort of disparaging comment. Why? I have no idea at all because this exhibition is a reflection of the partnership between the Art Gallery of WA and Eventscorp over a five-year period that will bring a series of annual international art exhibitions to Perth. This exhibition is *Peggy Guggenheim: A Collection in Venice*, which is of world-class standard, of course, and a particular credit to the director of the art gallery, Dr Stefano Carboni.

Mr J.N. Hyde: It is boutique; it is not a major Guggenheim.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: It is a significant exhibition that will be very attractive I think to those who actually appreciate twentieth century art and for those who visit the art gallery.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Next year is the Year of Chinese Culture in Australia. What is she doing about that? That should be the major focus of Eventscorp.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: The Art Gallery of Western Australia has a very good director and support staff who have presented some excellent exhibitions. Most recently, they presented the WA Indigenous Arts Awards. Some members of the opposition were present at the opening of that exhibition. I encourage all members of Parliament to visit that exhibition. The collaboration between Eventscorp and the Art Gallery of Western Australia will result in a series of successful exhibitions. Another example that I spoke about during question time reflects the collaboration between the Department of Culture and the Arts and the tourism portfolio. I refer to the Perth Fashion Festival, which is funded partly by the Department of Culture and the Arts and partly by Eventscorp. I have no doubt that it will be a success. The Sculpture by the Sea exhibition in the member for Cottesloe's electorate has been displayed over the past couple of years and will be presented again in 2011. Eventscorp in particular has provided financial support to enable that exhibition to occur, with some funding provided by the Department of Culture and the Arts. There is a strong collaboration between tourism and culture and the arts, and it is not happening by accident. Rather, it is happening because of a conscious decision by this government and because of the Minister for Tourism's personal interest in ensuring that there is more Eventscorp involvement in cultural and artistic activity. That is a credit to her.

The member for Perth mentioned the Mundaring Truffle Festival in Kalamunda. As much as I would love it to be in Kalamunda, it was held in Mundaring, and it has been held in Mundaring for the past three or four years.

This motion is not supported by the government. The motion does not stand up to scrutiny and I have demonstrated to some extent why that is so from a culture and the arts perspective. The Minister for Tourism and other government speakers will demonstrate from other perspectives why the motion should not be supported.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr J.M. Francis): I give the call to the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

MR T.K. WALDRON (Wagin — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [4.45 pm]: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: It is good to see that the discipline of members on the other side of the house is still going well!

I am speaking to this motion because tonight I am attending a dinner —

An opposition member: You are always going to dinners!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member is dead right; it is a bit of a worry. I am doing my best. I am in a holding pattern!

The dinner that I am attending tonight is promoting education in football—a concept of which the Minister for Tourism and I are very supportive. I rise to support the minister and to oppose the motion. I have worked closely

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with the Minister for Tourism and there is no doubt that she is very passionate and enthusiastic about tourism. She continually refers to tourism opportunities and initiatives when she talks to ministers.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: If members opposite do not want to listen, that is fine. But they need to listen if they are to understand the situation a bit better.

When we make decisions about programs or initiatives, the Minister for Tourism continually refers to the tourism aspect of those programs and initiatives and tries to ensure that we make the most of any tourism opportunities with everything we do. She has opened my eyes, which has meant that I now ensure that I make the most of any tourism opportunities that arise when I am working in my field. I am lucky because my portfolio of sport and recreation means that I get to work closely with the Minister for Tourism. I want to put on the record the importance of sport to tourism in this state. I have watched sport and been involved in sport all my life. It is of great value for many reasons, one of which is the huge value it brings to tourism. Over the past two years I have worked closely with the Minister for Tourism. Together we have done good things. The minister appreciates the great importance of sport and the opportunities it presents. She works closely with Eventscorp, which has been doing fantastic work. Given the position from which it has come and the direction in which it is going, Eventscorp is to be commended.

I have heard members talk about different events. I will run through a couple that are related to sport, because that is the area that I have experienced close at hand. I have seen the Minister for Tourism achieve good things together with Eventscorp and with the Minister for Culture and the Arts. For far too long there has been argument between culture and the arts and sport and recreation about who should get this funding and who should get that funding. The more I work with communities, particularly Aboriginal communities in the north, the more I realise that culture and the arts and sport and recreation deliver many good and similar benefits, although they have different mechanisms. Recently we were able to link culture and the arts with the football match that was held in Karratha as part of the country sport enrichment scheme. It was absolutely fantastic. That helped to attract a record crowd. Young Western Australian kids were involved in sport and culture. I make that point because the Minister for Culture and the Arts and I will work together to continue to link sport and culture and the arts more closely.

I refer to some events that make a real difference. Last weekend we announced that we have secured the V8 Supercars Championship event for the next five years. Members can criticise that announcement. However, we have not only secured the V8 Supercars for five years, because, importantly, the WA Sporting Car Club and Motorsport Western Australia will be able to utilise the Barbagallo Raceway track for 51 weeks of the year. They will be able to hold their own events and attract other events. Those events might not be the biggest in the world, but tourism is about international, interstate and intrastate tourism. Motorsport has great support around our state. It was an important announcement. Approximately 70 000 people will go to Barbagallo, many of them from overseas and interstate. The event will attract enormous media coverage. Tourism will be directly involved in the promotion of the V8s. This event will be different; members will see that difference unfold. That is a great thing for Western Australia, and I give credit to the Minister for Tourism.

I want to talk about the highly successful Margaret River Drug Aware Pro event, which attracted 38 of the top 44 professional male surfers. It is a wonderful event that attracts great national and international coverage. It is a great event for the south west because it brings visitors to the region. It complements all the other tourist attractions in the region. It is an excellent event. The member for Vasse may want to talk about the Busselton Half Ironman Triathlon. I do not want to steal his thunder! I was at this year's event. The member for Victoria Park completed the event. I have a lovely photograph of me presenting him with his medallion, albeit we are in a strange position! I congratulate him for participating in that event. I am sure he agrees that it is a fantastic event. It provides a great challenge and helps to keep people fit.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Minister, you're right, but visitor figures are down seven per cent. You have to do more.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: Okay. I am telling members about some of the things we are doing. We will continue to do more. The announcement about Barbagallo Raceway was one. Let me finish and the member will get a bit of an idea. The Busselton Half Ironman Triathlon is a huge event that delivers health benefits and great personal benefits. What a day it was! The member for Victoria Park would agree that it was a great day. The event attracted lots of people and there were a lot of activities going on. It provided many employment opportunities. I will not go through all the events in great detail, because other members want to speak to this motion. The Anaconda Adventure Race is a great event. I refer to the Hyundai Hopman Cup.

Mr P. Papalia: Why don't you sit down and let the tourism minister talk?

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
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Mr T.K. WALDRON: I am the sports minister. As sports minister, I promote sport, but I understand the link between sport and tourism. I am sure the Minister for Tourism gets sick of me of saying that we can do more with this and that. I want to work with her to benefit both portfolios.

Mr P. Papalia interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I do not think I am. The member is completely wrong.

Other events include the test cricket, the rugby test, the Hopman Cup and the Avon Descent, which was held recently. They are all great events.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: I will tell members something else we are doing in government—we are working together. The Minister for Tourism, the Premier, the Minister for Culture and the Arts and I meet regularly to discuss what we are doing to try to intermingle things. We do not run off and waste resources et cetera.

Mr T.G. Stephens: It can be summed up in one word—“failing”!

Mr T.K. WALDRON: The member can say that but I do not agree. We are delivering and will continue to do that.

I want to talk a little about infrastructure. To deliver tourism through sport and recreation we need infrastructure. I congratulate the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation on the work he did at AK Reserve. Every time I have gone out there after we have completed things he started, I always invite him and I always acknowledge him, and the previous ministers. I think they did a good job on that. We have been able to complete that, but we have been able to do a lot more. It will give us the ability to attract events and create greater tourism opportunities. I will just mention the opportunities. Obviously the basketball centre and the athletics stadium were the work of the previous Minister for Sport and Recreation—he got them all going. I came in and completed the good work that he had done. We also saw the Australian athletics championships held here last year. Other events are being looked at that we can now do at the athletics stadium. That will bring people to our state.

The state netball centre—which the opposition went on and on about but never ever delivered—we are delivering. We can attract events to the NIB Stadium. We are actually doing stuff. I spent eight years listening to the former government talk about the netball centre, saying “We’re gunna, we’re gunna, we’re gunna”. We are doing something about that. We are being proactive.

Several members interjected.

Mr T.K. WALDRON: We are actually doing it—that is what members do not get. The former government talked and talked. I congratulate the Minister for Tourism for her cooperation, and the Minister for Culture and the Arts, for what we have been able to do and what we will continue to do. We will be able to do a lot more that people will benefit from. In the end it will all benefit tourism. We will keep being proactive. We will keep working to get more events. Yes, we can always have more events. I agree it would be nice to get more events. We will make sure that happens.

DR E. CONSTABLE (Churchlands — Minister for Tourism) [4.52 pm]: I think it is almost hilariously funny that it has taken 23 months since this mob lost government to talk about tourism, in a two-year period when tourism has been —

Ms M.M. Quirk: That is your job!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The opposition has never brought on a motion about tourism in 24 months. I cannot believe it has not done that. It has shown no interest for two years, none whatsoever, and suddenly it has discovered tourism! I will tell members opposite a few things about tourism that they have selectively chosen not to talk about today, which are really important to the arguments that members have tried to put.

I will start by thanking the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the Minister for Sport and Recreation for their contributions. It proves a point about the direction I have been trying to take tourism—importantly, tourism cuts across at least 19 agencies —

Mr T.G. Stephens: So it is everybody else’s fault but yours.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Let me finish my sentence. At least 12 other ministers have direct involvement with tourism. For too long Tourism Western Australia has been allowed to be siloed, to grow far too big, to lose its way and start employing planners and other people —

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Ms M.M. Quirk: That is your job, minister.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: This happened under the former government, employing planners and other people —

Mr M. McGowan: It is an excellent agency and has very professional people.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am not saying they were not professional people. I am saying they lost their way because they started delving into other areas because they were siloed from other departments. What has been really important in the past 24 months is to forge relationships across those agencies and for me to forge relationships with other ministers so that we can move tourism ahead, as well as transport, planning, culture and the arts, sport and recreation, and environment. I could go on and on. There are 12 ministers involved. We are working across government, which is something that the former government did not do.

Mr J.N. Hyde: It is important in theory, but the visitor numbers are down.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I did not interrupt you!

Not only did the opposition take 24 months to even raise the subject of tourism but it wants a short debate on something that is so incredibly important. It is an industry that has had tough times in the past two years but it had tough times before that. The opposition talked about figures for the past 12 months but it did not bother to talk about the past decade. In the past decade, domestic tourism —

Mr J.N. Hyde: But the figures were going up!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, they were not. In the past decade —

Mr J.N. Hyde: Visitor numbers are plummeting under you.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I did not interrupt you. Just listen; you might learn something!

Mr E.S. Ripper: You have to put up with interjections when you're a minister; you cannot avoid them.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am not trying to avoid them. If he would listen, he might learn something. If he wants to shout for the next 58 minutes I am happy; I will just stand here and listen to him shout. But if he wants me to respond to what he said, at least give me a minute or two.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Go for it!

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Over the past decade, domestic tourism—that is intrastate and interstate—in Western Australia has steadily declined every year, by an average of 2.7 per cent a year for the past 10 or 11 years. That was under the former government. Then, when we came into government, we were faced immediately with the global financial downturn. That must have had an immediate effect on tourism. Leisure tourism, which is a major part of the industry, depends on people's discretionary dollars. People stop spending discretionary dollars when they think times are tight or when times do get tight for them. That is what happened immediately after we came into government. That occurred in the last few months of 2008. Very quickly after forming government, we commissioned the Carmody report. That was not to look back on figures; it was so we could look forward and get guidance on what we should do to assist industry. We did a number of very important things. We determined a tactical marketing response, which was Holiday at Home. Traditionally, with marketing and with tourism, if tourism is left to do its own thing without marketing, there is a decline. When there is a marketing program or special campaign there is a spike in tourism. That is exactly what happened with Holiday at Home—we got the spike we were looking for. The Holiday at Home campaign started in February 2009. The campaign was in partnership with industry. It was to continue until the beginning of May. We extended it by two months because it was going so well. So, we spent more money on the Holiday At Home program. We had the jump on other states as we did it quickly. It was a really important thing to do.

Mr J.N. Hyde: The spike has been on people going overseas.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I will come to that. The opposition was very selective in what it was saying, so I think it is really important for me to address that.

The first strategy that came out of that was a tactical marketing response to the global financial crisis. The second thing that came out of it, which was very important for the industry, was that the industry round table was set up under my direction, and under the guidance of Tourism Western Australia and the board. They had regular meetings with members of industry to monitor very closely what was happening through those very difficult months at the beginning of 2009. We strengthened the partnership with industry and we have continued to develop that relationship. We also have a robust strategy to look at the quality and supply of tourism products—the sorts of things that the former minister and member for Rockingham was talking about. Of course we

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continue to do that. I have travelled overseas myself. I have spoken to major developers in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. Some of those developers have also visited me here. Those contacts continue.

We know we have to address the problem of hotel rooms, particularly in Perth. We have to try to catch up on what the former government was not able to achieve. It is very difficult to get people to invest in hotels for a range of reasons. There are at least three greenfield sites in Perth—at the Perth waterfront; at the link across the railway, where there will probably be a hotel site; and in East Perth. Six-star hotel people who have visited me in Perth have told me that it is very unusual to have greenfield sites in an established city like Perth. There are a lot of people very interested in developing hotels here. Let us hope we can translate that into a reality of more hotel rooms very quickly because we really need them.

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member lives in a regional town that has no hotel. It had one and it was demolished. Albany desperately needs one. Despite what the member for Rockingham said about being Minister for Education; Tourism, everywhere I have gone for education, once the schools close at three o'clock I go into tourism mode and spend several hours visiting and talking to people about tourism. Therefore, people can combine both if they are well organised. I have been from the far north of the state to the far south of the state—to Albany and Esperance. I have been all over this state—out to the Gormleys, out to Menzies and out to Kalgoorlie more than once—talking to people about this and getting to know the industry and getting to know those small business people who are, as the member for Rockingham said, so very important to this industry. It is an industry that brings in \$7 billion to state product every year, and \$2 billion of that is generated for the regions. It is an industry that employs 80 000 people. It is a fantastic industry and one that we must support, but the way we support it is something that we have had to rethink over the past two years. We had an agency that had 169 full-time equivalent staff. It grew by 69 per cent under the previous government, and every time an FTE was put on, less money could be spent on marketing and the other things that money must be spent on. Therefore, the core business of any tourism agency —

Mr E.S. Ripper: But we also spent more on marketing.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, no, no.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Yes, we did—every year.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The figure is more than \$24 million this year.

Mr M. McGowan: And the numbers went up.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Domestic numbers went down steadily over the past decade.

Mr J.N. Hyde: They have plummeted this past year. That is what this debate is about. Tell us what you will do.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The international numbers have gone up and the international spend has gone up, but the domestic figures have declined every year for the past 10 years.

Let us talk about the current situation that the member has been pushing and talk about his selectivity in what he wanted to say. He told only a very small part of the story. The big part of the story relates to the Australian dollar, which is at US91.3c today. The member should not shake his head. It is really important to people who want to travel and to people whom we might want to attract here.

Mr J.N. Hyde: That's an excuse.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: It is not an excuse. It is a reality that this industry is facing.

Mr J.N. Hyde: The dollar has been above US90c before.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am telling the member the current situation and the part that he left out. With a high Australian dollar, Australians want to travel overseas on those cheap fares. There are 52 flights out of Perth every week to Bali—52 flights.

Mr J.N. Hyde: And 52 flights coming in.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: They are bringing them back. How does the member think they get back—on boats? Come on. They go out on Sunday and come back the following Sunday.

Mr J.N. Hyde: That's the whole point. You're not getting new people.

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
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Dr E. CONSTABLE: The people who go on those flights to Bali go out on the flights, and then the 52 flights come back, and they come back on them. The member should take his head out from under the stone.

Mr J.N. Hyde: What about the Singaporeans going back home? That is what the minister should be doing. That is her job.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Let us just concentrate on these two things and see whether the member can grasp them. When we have a high Australian dollar and cheap fares and cheap packages, people will want to buy them because it is much more expensive to travel in Western Australia. They make that choice. Very interestingly, in the work that we have been doing on this and from the research that has been done, we know that Western Australians say that of course they want to travel in Western Australia—they actually say that when they are interviewed—but they vote with the hip pocket and then travel overseas. At the moment that is what they are doing. If the dollar were to drop fairly substantially, they would be more likely to holiday at home.

Mr J.N. Hyde: The number of international students is up 10 per cent.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member has just pulled that number out of the air. The number of international students is not up 10 per cent.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Your figures in there show it.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Enrolments of international students this year are not up 10 per cent.

Mr J.N. Hyde: That's massaging our international figures. If international students coming to Perth were not up 10 per cent —

Dr E. CONSTABLE: International enrolments are dropping across Australia for a number of reasons. One of the reasons is the Australian dollar and the competition that is coming from Asian universities, particularly in places like Singapore, and from other English-speaking countries. There is no doubt that the numbers are dropping, and one of the reasons they are dropping is the issues that have been created in the eastern states by the over-enrolment of students, particularly from India. Therefore, the member should not go there.

Mr J.N. Hyde: We'll do a private members' motion next week on that, then, if that's worse than what your figures say.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Coming into government in 2008, there was the Carmody report. We looked for the potential impacts on tourism, and we had a number of strategies at that time. One of the other things that we did was give Tourism Western Australia and the board a chance to examine themselves, to look at who they were, where they were going, what had been happening and what they needed to do to regroup to improve the situation in Western Australia and to support the industry. They went out and talked to the industry. They sent out a thousand letters to people in the industry. They interviewed large numbers of people and discussed it with them. The answer that came back from the industry over and over again was that it wanted the state government to market; it wants us to bring people here. Consequently, the whole strategy of Tourism Western Australia is grounded in that core function of marketing, and it will continue to be grounded in that way. Part of that is events. We cannot market these days without having events that also bring people here. Events are seen as really important. So there were those two things, and encouraging the development of product and encouraging infrastructure. Infrastructure depends not only on Tourism Western Australia and me, as minister, but also on other ministers, to be involved. We are cutting red tape. That is the sort of thing that this government is working on to make sure that people do not have to wait 10 years before they can build their hotel or develop their resort in the south west. These are the things that Tourism Western Australia must concentrate on.

The board looked at a 69 per cent increase in the FTEs and said, "We can spend this money better. We have moved into areas where we should not be—employing planners and other people. We have to claw back, look at our core function and go for that." That is exactly what the restructure has done.

Mr J.N. Hyde: This is good. When do you think it will turn around so that the tourism operators —

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not have a crystal ball; I wish I did. It is not instantaneous.

Mr J.N. Hyde: But you are adopting this strategy. You must expect that it is going to turn around so that operators can invest.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: We will be monitoring it very closely. One thing that I have learnt about tourism professionals is that they are very good at monitoring things very closely and very hard.

Mr J.N. Hyde: And they are telling us that it is plummeting.

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
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Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member is listening to some people; I am listening to the industry and I am listening to the peak body, the Tourism Council Western Australia. They support the strategy that we have embarked on.

Mr J.N. Hyde: But they are not investing in new hotels and they are not investing in new events. They are not investing because they don't have the confidence that your strategy will bring in more visitors.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Just let me continue. We have Western Australians saying that of course they want to holiday at home, but they vote with their hip pocket and, in the main, take cheaper fares overseas for their holidays, and that is their choice. We are continuing to research the subject to look at the ways in which we can continue to develop and encourage people to holiday at home. That is very important in what we are doing.

I have touched on the restructure of Tourism Western Australia. Part of that restructure, which a couple of members opposite drew attention to, was the overseas offices. They are very important, and we will continue to have representation overseas. In Singapore, for instance—I think this happened under the previous government; I am sure it did—there is a contract with some local people with local knowledge. It is possible that that transition will be made also with our own employees in places like Japan, Germany and England. We are watching that situation, and it will be a transition over two years while the decision is made about which —

Mr J.N. Hyde: Our Japanese office has such corporate knowledge.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Let me tell the member about Japanese tourism in Australia. In the past decade, it has dropped from 800 000 to 350 000. No wonder Queensland is in such trouble, because it depended so much on that one market. We are into developing a range of markets and continuing to develop them.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You've given up.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No-one has given up. Our marketing strategies are central to where we are going. Following the Holiday at Home campaign, and during that period, and throughout last year, a lot of work was being done on repositioning our brand to a brand that could be universally applied—the brand being Experience Extraordinary Western Australia. It really is an extraordinary place. Tourism Western Australia, without any trouble at all, has come up with 400 facts about this state and about places in this state that make it stand out. We have the largest fringing reef in the world at Ningaloo. The largest park in the southern hemisphere is just here on our doorstep at Kings Park, and so on.

Several members interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Tourism Western Australia has had to modify its marketing activity to focus on the markets and market sectors most likely to travel in the short term. The overseas markets that are really important to us are Singapore and Malaysia. I have been to those countries. I have met with people and developers who are very keen to invest in Western Australian hotels, as well as resorts and other tourism products.

Mr J.N. Hyde: What are our chances with Shanghai next year for the international year of Chinese culture in Australia?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: China is a more difficult market with which to encourage direct flights. I have been in conversation with Qantas particularly, but there is also dialogue with China Southern Airlines as a possibility. I have spoken to Dragonair and Cathay Pacific, and Cathay Pacific has changed the times of its flights so that there are much better connections in Hong Kong to get into China. There have been some modifications. Qantas has done the same thing. We understand the potential of tourists and other visitors coming from China. We have been working on this for well over a year and we will continue to do so. It is not easy and has not been easy in the current economic circumstances to convince airlines that they should take that leap, because there is some risk in it for them. The member knows what has happened to airlines over the past year or so. The point is well made by the member for Perth. I think the point is well made by me. We know that we want direct flights. We know that that will make a difference. We are working very hard to try to achieve that. We have come part of the way by getting those major airlines to change their timetables to make it easier for people to come to Perth. That is a good start, but we have to do a lot more. I agree with the member totally; it is a great potential market that we need to continue to work on.

Following the launch of the Experience Extraordinary Western Australia brand, the first campaign was the Extraordinary Taxi Ride. I know that there has been a lot of derision about this campaign, and I think it is a great pity that some of that has come from members opposite. I would have thought that they would want to encourage tourism. That campaign is a great way to show the world Western Australia. The competitions involved in the campaign were really interesting. Doug Slater, the taxidriver, did a great job; he is a marvellous ambassador for this state. There was a worldwide competition for the 11 couples who travelled in the taxi. The video footage from those trips is continuously being used.

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
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Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I was at a ministerial council meeting elsewhere, and the Minister for Environment did it for me.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member knows as well as I do—or maybe she has a short memory—that ministerial council meetings are very important and ministers go to them.

Mr R.F. Johnson: She was never available.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: She was never available.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O’Gorman): Members, we require that there not be conversations across the chamber. The Leader of the House should be well aware of that, as should the member for Girrawheen.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Five of the 11 couples who went on the legs of the Extraordinary Taxi Ride were from major markets overseas—New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! There are a number of members on three calls. I do not want to be the one to make the fourth one. Can members please let us hear the minister in silence.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The footage that was taken during the Extraordinary Taxi Ride is now being used in those countries. For instance, there were two people from Germany, and that footage and their comments are being used to promote Western Australia. By all accounts, this has been a massively successful first marketing campaign under the new brand of Experience Extraordinary Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: This brand will be with us for a while, so members should get used to it. It is a brand that can be well applied across many different areas. For instance, we could say “Experience Extraordinary Western Australia” about our resource industry. Every dollar spent on the Extraordinary Taxi Ride campaign has resulted in a \$13 return for the Western Australian economy. That is a good measure of a successful campaign. The media exposure had an estimated value of \$5.2 million, which is more than was spent on the campaign.

Mr J.N. Hyde: This is nice, but it’s not translating into visitor numbers.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The visitor numbers that the member quoted were to the end of March 2010. He does not have the visitor numbers from 2010, so he does not know the results.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Your department published them only in June. Give us today’s figures.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not have the latest figures because they have not come through. The figures that the member for Perth had were for the year ending March 2010. He does not know the impact of this. I am telling him the figures I have that indicate the impact of this campaign. If he listens, he might learn something.

Mr J.N. Hyde: I am listening but I can’t hear any figures.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: We know that there was a global audience of more than 90 million people who saw parts of that campaign. We know, member for Perth, that there have been either double or triple-digit increases in the bookings that have been coming through from the tourism industry partners on that campaign. People all over the world have seen the evidence of the campaign and the footage, and that is translating not just into them saying, “I think I might go to WA one day”; there have been double and triple-digit increases in bookings, so people are actually going to come to Western Australia.

Mr J.N. Hyde: So you’ll guarantee that in September and October, our visitor figures will double?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not know when they are coming. If they are from England, they might be booking a year ahead. I do not know the answer to the member’s question.

Mr J.N. Hyde: You are guaranteeing a doubling and a tripling?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am not guaranteeing anything; I am reporting to the member the evidence that we have from that campaign. The member should not put words in my mouth. He should listen and not misinterpret.

Mr J.N. Hyde: But you’re trying to say that these are ridgy-didge bookings.

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Troy Buswell; Mr Tom Stephens; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Chris
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Dr E. CONSTABLE: No; I am not saying anything more to the member than the results that we have of this campaign to this point.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Was this a sample or was this actually valid research?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Participating tourism industry partners have recorded double and triple-digit increases in bookings to Western Australia directly attributable to the campaign.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Is that two people or is this a sample of 300 major bookings?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member should listen again in case he did not catch it. Participating tourism industry partners—there are a lot of partners who are WA focused and who want to bring more people here, so they have put up money and in-kind assistance—have recorded a huge increase in bookings to Western Australia. We have yet to see those materialise into people coming to Western Australia, but I am sure that many of them will. The taxi ride website had more than 180 000 hits. That is a huge amount of interest. The first thing marketing does is raise interest, and the next thing we want is to convert that into bookings. We have some evidence that there has been conversion into bookings.

Mr C.J. Barnett: People book online now, don't they?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Yes, a lot of people book online as well as book packages. We have major spin-offs from the taxi ride in images, videos and other things that we will use to continue to market Western Australia.

I have met with about 10 or 12 major airlines that fly to Western Australia and we have been looking at a number of possibilities. I am very keen to investigate an upgraded airstrip and airport in the Augusta – Margaret River area.

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I assure the member that the tourism industry in Margaret River will be looked after.

Mr C.J. Tallentire interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not have jurisdiction over coalmines; another minister does. That gets back to my earlier point that working with other ministers across government is very important.

Several members interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I do not have jurisdiction over coalmines.

Several members interjected.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I did not say that I did. That is exactly what I just said. My job is to work with other ministers on tourism matters.

Let me get back to Augusta – Margaret River. It is very important that we pursue an upgraded and renewed airport in the Augusta – Margaret River area. I know airlines that I have spoken to that will jump at the chance to have direct flights from Melbourne and Sydney, for instance.

Mr J.N. Hyde: So when are you building it?

Mr T.R. Buswell: It is already built.

Mr J.N. Hyde: No, you need one that will take a 737.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The Shires of Busselton and Augusta – Margaret River are integral to this. A lot of progress has been made in that area. I give that as a report, but there will be more to come with that one. I am very keen to see direct flights into Broome from our near overseas neighbours. I have discussed that with three or four airlines. There is some interest there, and we are working on that as well. As I said before, and I will not repeat my comments, we will continue to develop quality product, particularly quality hotels. We need new hotels. I must say that it is worth commending some of our own well-established hotels, such as the InterContinental Perth Burswood and the Hyatt Regency in particular, which are spending large sums of money upgrading their hotels. The more we see that happen, the more likely we are to get that resurgence in hotels. That is a really important part of what we do.

Another area that I think is extremely important, and one I have been working on with the Minister for Regional Development, is Aboriginal and Indigenous tourism. We are further ahead with the organisation of that than other jurisdictions. We have some excellent product. I was in Kalumburu just last week and had the most wonderful guided tour of some rock art. We have great potential in this area. We know that many of our overseas visitors come to Perth, go to the regions and seek an Indigenous tourism experience. This is an area that we can

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nurture and grow, working with the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operators Committee. We have a three-year plan to work with that committee to continue the great work that it has been doing. Nature-based tourism is another area that is just right for Western Australia. We have the most fantastic parks to go to. We have to put those up. That is one of the things that we are very keen to do. Through Naturebank, with the Minister for Environment, the first release of land at Kurradjong in the Purnululu National Park to encourage someone to engage in tourism development there is underway.

Events always attract a great deal of comment and a great deal of emotion, because some of us like sporting events, some of us like culture and the arts and some of us like both. I happen to love cricket. I cannot wait to see the Ashes test come here. I also love rugby union, and there was a great test in June.

Mr C.J. Barnett: What about V8 supercars?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Yes, V8 supercars, but I think I like cricket and rugby more. Lots of people like V8 supercars.

Mr C.J. Barnett: The member for Perth loves V8 supercars.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I am sure, but I actually thought that the member for Perth liked cultural events.

Mr J.N. Hyde: I want big, unique ones.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: The member is going to have a range of events.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Bring us a David Hockney retrospective.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: There will always be a range of events. The member must agree that the *A Day in Pompeii* exhibition has been a near blockbuster for us. We expect that over 90 000 people will have gone to that. We would only get 70 000 people going to the V8 supercars but 90 000 people would go to the Pompeii exhibition. We know that if we look worldwide, more people go to cultural and arts events than go to sporting events.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Had you followed the Melbourne figures about its Pompeii exhibition? Like you, the Victorian government —

Dr E. CONSTABLE: How many people are in Victoria? They are drawing on 5 million people plus an easy ride from South Australia or from New South Wales to go to it.

Mr J.N. Hyde: A lot of people from Perth went. You went from Perth and saw it.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No, I did not see it in Melbourne.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Where did you go to see it?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I saw it in Los Angeles because I have a son who is permanently living in LA and once a year we go to visit him. I saw it quite by chance at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. I just happened to be there.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Have you seen the real Guggenheim in LA?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: I went to the Guggenheim in LA many years ago.

Mr J.N. Hyde: It is stunning. If we could only get that.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: If we could only get a Guggenheim? We are planning great things. I want just to home in on the member's electorate, because he is very fortunate to represent the city of Perth and the surrounding area. I would have thought that he would go out of his way to encourage vibrancy in the city and not pan or knock events. I heard him knock the Guggenheim earlier. He has been knocking non-stop One Movement for Music. The interesting thing about that is that it was his former minister who, while minister, did all the negotiations for that. I just wonder whether he read Ben O'Shea's article last week. If he did not, I think that he needs to hear some of it.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Is this the rugby player?

Dr E. CONSTABLE: No. He referred to special events and wrote —

There are so many amazing events on the calendar these days that it's nigh on impossible for most people to see them all.

There is a nice comment from *The West Australian*. He went on to write —

One Movement for Music ... is born and bred in WA and it is a very special event to me.

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Mr J.N. Hyde: It is so special that nobody goes.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Some 50 000 people participated last year, and I expect that we will have more this year.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Most of those were giveaways to Murdoch University.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Most of them were free on the streets of the member's electorate. There was vibrancy in his electorate with 50 000 people, and the member is panning it. One must ask why. The member must have a motive to be panning it. Ben O'Shea goes on to write —

... this new music showcase is an event with a vision—a WA vision to bring the global music industry to Perth.

That sounds pretty big. The opposition wanted to do it when it was in government, and it brought it in. It started under us but it was all done under the member's government. It continues —

And that vision will continue to unfold when the OMFM returns from October ...

...

At last year's OMFM, it was widely accepted that the best of the festival happened in the industry showcases that took place in atypical live music settings such as Wolf Lane well after Perth's traditional bedtime.

I guess my point of all of this is to convey some of the excitement I feel about this event in the hope it might be contagious.

I hope it is. I hope the member catches it.

Mr J.N. Hyde: I wish Tiger and Jetstar were putting on more planes to bring people from Sydney and Melbourne to it. I wish they were bringing more people from Singapore, but they are not.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Just watch this space. The article continues —

Likewise, the Perth Fashion Festival is just around the corner ...

I will not go into what he says about that, but he says that it is a good thing. He writes about it —

WA has some world-class designers (much like our music industry, I suspect we punch well above our weight) and it is only fitting we celebrate them.

And, honestly, since when has a celebration ever been a bad thing?

The member has been knocking it. He should start celebrating. The article continues —

Perhaps that's the key—special WA events like OMFM, PFF and PIAF give us the fleeting impression that this State isn't only about kicking footballs around an oval or digging minerals out of the ground.

Here we have culture and the arts events and someone saying that it is a good thing. I do not hear that from the member often enough. He goes on to write —

Both events are supported ... by Eventscorp, the embattled events division of Tourism WA that copped flak recently for having no "back-up plan" for the cancelled Red Bull Air Race ...

It was cancelled two weeks ago. We will get in there and we will get something else. It may well return in 2012. We do not know that yet. He writes —

Here's a newsflash —

This is his view —

the Red Bull Air Race is stupid.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O'Gorman): Members, the noise level in here is getting really high. If you have to have conversations, can you take them outside, particularly members on my right at the moment. Can you take your conversations outside so that we can actually hear your minister speaking.

Dr E. CONSTABLE: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. He goes on to write, and I will finish with this —

So, personally, I am mighty happy some of Eventcorp's money (technically our tax dollar) is going to "Plan B" events like OMFM and PFF, events that wouldn't otherwise be possible given the tyranny of distance and our piddling population.

His words —

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But let's not kid ourselves, without our support neither event can survive and, though we did get an opportunity to stick it to an easy target like Eventscorp if it failed, we will be the ones poorer for their loss.

A wise man (OK, it was me) once said we get the Perth that we deserve, so all I want you to do is ask yourself, what sort of Perth do you deserve—Dullsville or something more?

I would encourage the member for Perth to get out there and encourage people to participate in all those events that are in his electorate—*Guggenheim, Pompeii*, One Movement for Music and Perth Fashion Festival. Stop knocking it and start helping to build this great industry—the tourism industry—in Western Australia.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough) [5.30 pm]: Thank you —

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is a very intelligent remark, member for Albany. I thank the member for his contribution.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr A.P. O'Gorman): Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is funny the Premier should mention that.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, we have not even got a minute into the member for Scarborough's speech, and I cannot hear. Premier, I ask you not to interject across the chamber while one of your own members is speaking—it would be pleasant to actually hear her. Members on the other side, can you also listen in silence until the member at least gets out her first sentence. The member for Scarborough has the call.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I rise as the member for Scarborough today—

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: As usual, another intelligent interjection. It is such a pleasure being in this place, hearing the opposition's intelligent contributions to the debate.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I will inform members of this house of the long-term issues associated with Scarborough that are a result of planning and policy failures of the previous government. I have lived in Scarborough —

Mr P. Papalia: Why didn't I know that it was our fault?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Why does the member not listen, and I will tell him? Perhaps if he went to Scarborough sometime and looked at the mess the former government created in my backyard, he might actually have some sympathy for the people who have been living there, hoping and waiting for something to happen. Thank God for our government coming into power is all I can say.

In 1974, Scarborough was designated as a special beach development zone. The area was supposed to be developed in line with tourism objectives of the government, and there has been failure after failure in the planning and tourism portfolios until quite recently. A couple of controversial planning amendments have affected Scarborough, one of which was planning amendment 457, which the City of Stirling put to public consultation. It was developed in consultation with stakeholders and residents over a prolonged period. I will quote from City of Stirling council minutes, dated 28 June 2005 —

At the time it was drafted, the Amendment was considered to advance State Government objectives and was therefore likely to be supported at this level. However the Government during the recent State Government elections announced a policy "Labor's Plan for Better Beaches" ... that limits height along the coast to 5 stories and allows in some areas where there is strong community support development up to 8 stories.

At the time, Tourism WA produced a report called "Destination Development Strategy 'An Action Plan Approach' 2004–2014". The reason I mention those two issues in Scarborough is that planning amendment 457 was quite well progressed, in line with state government planning policy and state government tourism policy until mid-June 2005, when the then planning minister, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, intervened in the planning process and halted the consultation.

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Mr J.N. Hyde: Relevance to the motion! Have you read the motion?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am getting to it.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Well, no preamble!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Do not make a preamble; that is a good one coming from that side of the house!

What this did, in turn, was delay the planning process. The planning amendment had to go back to public consultation, which delayed anything happening in Scarborough for a further six to eight months, and then the planning amendment went to the planning minister. The planning minister sat on the amendment for 18 months before making a decision.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry, member for Scarborough. Leader of the House, you know better, so I am going to call you to order and ask that you not carry on conversations across the chamber. You have been in this place long enough to know—button it up!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am developing a story, and I appreciate the house's indulgence.

Mr J.N. Hyde: Are you reading a fantasy?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I am not reading; I am quoting!

The planning minister, having intervened and delayed the process, then signed off on amendment 457. In signing off on amendment 457, what she missed—as did the former government's Minister for Tourism—was the failure to retain a hotel zoning for the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel. That zoning was changed to a tourism zoning, which allowed the owners of the site to progress their plans to turn the only beachfront high-rise hotel accommodation in the state into an apartment building for private ownership.

Mr P. Papalia: You've been in power for two years and we are talking about a 15 per cent drop in the last 12 months!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Thank goodness the current Ministers for Tourism and Planning intervened in the process and got in touch with the City of Stirling and the owners of the hotel site. When local planning scheme 3 came up for approval, the ministers intervened in the interests of local jobs—upwards of 800 jobs for my local area—tourism on the coast and the development of a strategic coastal tourism destination, and insisted that the designation of the hotel as a hotel site be put to community consultation. Not surprisingly, the community overwhelmingly said, "Yes; we want our only multistorey hotel site on our coast to remain a hotel site. We want our tourism jobs and we want this bonus to the local economy." This is indicative of the failure of policy of the previous government, and part of the reason for the difficulty that this state has in trying to attract conferences and other such events. We have a lack of hotel beds. We nearly lost our only hotel site on the beachfront under the former government. How many hotels were built on the former government's watch? I do not think there were any. We cannot expect to develop a tourism industry.

Mr P.B. Watson: We had one knocked down in Albany.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Negative one—I thank the member for Albany for his assistance! Minus one—what a success story!

Mr J.R. Quigley: Observation City got built on the Labor watch.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I do not know that we really want to revisit those times, member for Mindarie!

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Regardless of how the approvals for Observation City were obtained, and we will not talk about people who may or may not have gone to jail as a result of approvals for the Rendezvous Hotel site —

Mr J.R. Quigley: Who is that? What are you talking about? I know: Ray O'Connor was the only person who went to jail over that. The former Liberal Premier went to jail for corruption over the building of Observation City. I saw him go to jail.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I thank the member so much for his assistance during my contribution to the debate.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I cannot even hear myself speak, which would be somewhat of a surprise to anyone who knows me!

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Mr J.M. Francis: I'm the closest person, and I cannot even hear her speak!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Scarborough, I know you are having difficulty; I am having difficulty, and I am sure Hansard is getting only half of what you are saying. But I also remind you that it is not appropriate to invite interjections. If you invite fewer interjections, we may have less noise across this place and we may be able to hear you. Just temper your comments to addressing the motion.

Mr J.R. Quigley: I hope Hansard got the bit about the Liberal Premier who went to jail over Observation City.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mindarie!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I would think the member for Mindarie might have something else to say, because when he was the member for Innaloo, there was not much development at Scarborough on his watch, either!

My point is that it is all very well and good to come into this place and spruik that there has been a decline in tourism, but during consultation with members of the tourism industry who are desperately trying to make a go of it in Scarborough, and trying to make a go of it around the state, they have said over and again that the issues facing tourism are issues of regulation and planning, and issues with the planning system that proliferated under the previous government's watch. What they are up to now is that they are developing their plans and they are waiting for our planning approvals and our new regulations to be drafted so that they can get some sensible planning outcomes and have sensible tourism outcomes. They can get their planning approvals through, they can build their developments, they can create accommodation, they can get on with what they want to do and they can generate income for this economy.

Mr J.R. Quigley interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Mindarie!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The lack of development at Scarborough was highlighted and I noted the member for Rockingham's contribution about the National Surf Lifesaving Championships. That event was a boon for Scarborough. We held them from 2006 to 2009. The interesting thing about the National Surf Lifesaving Championships was that we had a three-year lead-up phase before it was actually hosted in Scarborough, and in that time not enough accommodation beds were built in Scarborough to cater for the influx of tourists coming over for that event.

Mr M. McGowan: There were 5 000! What sort of hotel did you want in Scarborough—the Pentagon?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: What the member for Rockingham could have done —

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: The member could have intervened in the planning process and enabled planning approvals to go through and facilitate development and encourage development to cater for international events so that they did not turn into an embarrassment!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: I had to listen to people complaining that it was a national embarrassment. There was nowhere to stay in Scarborough, there was nowhere to go, and that was because nothing got developed for eight years on the previous Labor government's watch. If members opposite want to get to the heart of problems in tourism, they should come down to Scarborough and I will show them all the land that has not been developed because we missed the boom because the previous government could not get its act together in planning in time to allow the developments to proceed.

Several members interjected.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: In closing, I think the initiative of this government, in a time when we have a decline in international travel worldwide, is setting the groundwork, putting the processes in place, improving the regulations and reducing red tape that will enable tourism to flourish when we move out of this decline and into a phase of growth both nationally and internationally.

MR T.R. BUSWELL (Vasse) [5.42 pm]: I will make a couple of comments on the motion before the house. I think that my comments will probably be slightly different from others in that I have a more from-the-ground-up approach to tourism, having been a tourism operator since 1991.

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Mr D.A. Templeman: The Reg Varney of tourism!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Possibly! My wife and I built a business up that started with two people and we ended up with 30 people. I had the privilege in that time to travel —

Ms M.M. Quirk: You took a hands-on approach, didn't you!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: — from Kununurra in the north to Esperance in the south and just about every place in the middle—I hear the member for Girrawheen!—with an understanding of the nature of the tourism product that we had, the complexities of pulling it together and selling it, and the sorts of services that we had to offer to people.

My observations are probably different in that I come from a position of natural scepticism of the organisation formerly known as the Western Australian Tourism Commission; I have had that scepticism since 1991 and I still have it today. I think that it is an organisation that was sadly in need of fundamental reform, and under this minister, at long last, that reform process has commenced. That reform involves a significant reshaping of the way in which the tourism budget of Western Australia is spent, and that reshaping will see less spent on people and more spent on marketing. When members travel across Western Australia and talk to tourism operators—I know that the Leader of the Opposition has been out and about around the countryside, and good on him, with some of his colleagues—they will say that there are big issues in the way in which Western Australian tourism is marketed. However, let me say that the industry has always said that about the Tourism Commission! I suspect that it always will. Although I am a great fan of the tourism industry, there are a few people in that industry—a minority—who I think will always blame the government for the difficulties that they face. Perhaps that exists in every single industry. The peak body, Tourism Western Australia, was in need of fundamental reform and I will talk about that later.

It is also the case that tourism in Western Australia has been subject, in the time of my involvement with it, to a number of external shocks. I recall all too well, for example, the collapse of Compass Airlines. I recall the arrival of Compass Airlines, which attempted to break the Ansett–Qantas duopoly that was killing Western Australian tourism; it had a huge positive impact. The south west was full of hire cars —

Dr M.D. Nahan: It was located at the international airport; it was forced to locate there by the domestic airport.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I knew the member for Riverton would know something about it! I was stuck in Busselton and I rarely visited the airport.

Compass collapsed and that had a huge impact on tourism in WA; it was a significant external shock. The collapse of Qantas was a significant —

Ms R. Saffioti: Ansett!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The rise of Qantas and the collapse of Ansett was a huge external shock for the tourism industry in Western Australia! September 11 had a huge external effect on Western Australia. The minister is right; the global financial crisis was a huge external shock that affected tourism in Western Australia. It affected all sorts of tourism, particularly intrastate tourism—people from Western Australia who would not travel within their own state because they wanted to hoard their pennies—and interstate tourism. The tourism industry in Western Australia has survived those shocks and worked through them and it will survive this shock and work through it.

A couple of points were raised by members opposite. First, the member for Perth continually harped on about the cut in the tourism budget. I do not know, member for Perth; I was not involved necessarily in the finalisation of the budget papers this year, although I went back and had a look. I seem to recall, as I glanced at the Tourism WA appropriation, that it is significantly higher this year at \$62 million compared with last year's \$56 million. I do not know where the member attended school, but where I went to school 62 was a greater sum than 56.

Mr J.N. Hyde: What did you do for it in your first year as Treasurer? You did a budget yourself!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Member, do not worry about what I did to it! In actual fact, in 2009–10 the appropriation to tourism was some \$2.6 million higher than was the case in the previous year. So what did we do? We increased the appropriation to tourism in our first year and significantly increased it in our second year. Therefore, anyone who suggests that under this minister the amount of money that this government is spending on tourism has declined is quite simply misrepresenting the facts.

Several members interjected.

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Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I will get to visitor numbers. I am dealing with the issue that the member raised when he said that the budget had gone down when clearly the evidence suggests the exact opposite. Therefore, member for Perth, in relation to that matter, the facts speak for themselves.

The member also raised an issue around the closure of regional tourism offices. I have lived, operated and worked out of Busselton for a long time. Tourism South West, in my view, offered very little to the local tourism industry.

Mr J.N. Hyde: All those volunteers!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Tourism South West offered very little. How many volunteers were in the south west, member for Perth?

Mr J.N. Hyde: Thousands! If you go to Denmark, Walpole and all those little towns —

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: And what was their link with the Tourism South West office out of Bunbury? Will they stop being volunteers? Absolutely not because they belong to bodies such as the Denmark tourism association, the Geographie Bay Tourism Association, the Augusta – Margaret River Tourism Association; they are the bodies on the ground that deliver the grunt and service to visitors in regional Western Australia. If members talk to operators in those areas, they will say that those regional offices of Tourism WA added very little to their businesses and did very little to address the issues confronting tourism in Western Australia.

Mr J.N. Hyde: And your extra budget money was for redundancies to sack all those workers.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Let us move on. The extra budget money is a good point, so let us talk about that. The loss of the regional tourism offices was part of that, but not all of it. I think the figure that the member for Perth used was a reduction in full-time equivalents of 85. If we roughly apply \$100 000 a year as a saving per FTE, it is around \$8.5 million. This highlights the point that the minister made—this is part of the great reform of Tourism Western Australia—because that \$8.5 million will now no longer be sucked off into a head count; that \$8.5 million will be directed into marketing. Again, when one travels the length and breadth of Western Australia, one understands what the tourism sector wants is not more bureaucrats sitting in an office in Perth with no idea about what is happening on the ground; it wants more effective marketing of the product that it makes its money off. It took a brave minister to deliver that reform. It takes a brave minister to go to a department and say, “We are going to move money out of staff and into marketing.” That was not easy to do.

Mr J.N. Hyde: There was a 20 per cent cut in the forward estimates.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: They are the sorts of reforms that will lead to significant and sustained change in the way tourism in Western Australia is marketed. That is why those changes are supported by industry. But the opposition is right on one thing: tourism performance in Western Australia needs to improve. This is not an issue that has crept up on us in the past one to two years; this is a long-term issue that needed decisive, bold measures to address it, driven by a decisive, bold minister. That is what happened.

I want to talk about it for a second. Have a look at tourism numbers. The opposition has quoted all sorts of statistics. I did not have long this afternoon, but I dug out the past eight years of —

Mr P. Papalia: How did the member describe the minister?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Decisive and bold.

Mr J.N. Hyde: You were making a crust out of tourism while we were in government.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I know; and I will tell the member why in a second.

I have here “Travel by Australians”, which is a report of the National Visitor Survey by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism. I assume it collates statistics similar to those the member referred to before. I will go back to 2003, which is when the series started. I am not going to worry about international tourism; I think that has been done to death.

Mr J.N. Hyde: You have killed it off!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Looking at tourism within Australia, whether intrastate or interstate, paints a very interesting picture. It is actually a concerning picture because it is one of sustained decline. It is not just decline in the past one or two years; this minister has had to wrestle with a long-term trend. Let us look at intrastate visitor numbers within Western Australia. In 2003, there were 5.8 million intrastate tourists within WA. By 2008, under the former government’s watch, that number dropped by 13 per cent to 5.08 million visitors. That is still declining. Interstate tourism into Western Australia has shown modest growth, which has been a positive. Let us not forget that the vast majority of tourism operators get very little direct expenditure out of international

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tourists, though they are a very important segment of the market. The vast majority of tourism operators across Western Australia benefit when Western Australians say, "I'm going to go on a holiday this year. I'm going to go to Kalbarri, Busselton, Albany, Esperance, Carnarvon or" —

Mr J.N. Hyde: Or the Goldfields.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Or the Goldfields, or wherever they choose to go.

Mr J.N. Hyde: But there is a 26 per cent cut to the Goldfields in one year. That is not a steady decline.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Member, as I explained earlier, that is an external shop. The industry in this state is resilient and will bounce back from that. But there has been a long-term decline, in particular in intrastate tourism, and it is a major concern. I refer to our market share. I quickly divided the number of visitors to Western Australia by the total numbers around Australia. I hope I have it here because it took me ages to calculate. In terms of intrastate tourism, our market share—that is, what is happening in Western Australia compared with the rest of Australia—has also declined. It has not declined as much but it has declined. That says that intrastate tourism around Australia has declined; not by the same rates as it has declined in Western Australia but it has still declined.

Mr J.N. Hyde: You are using airport figures, not visitors.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Member for Perth, I am using figures provided loyally to me by the Australian federal government.

Dr E. Constable: They provide the tourism figures.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: They are very nice figures. They are figures that highlight the point. I suspect that if I went back into the Court government, I would see the same trend. There has been a long-term trend of fewer people holidaying at home. That has a huge impact on tourism, especially regional tourism in Western Australia.

Mr P.B. Watson: There are cheap flights in Western Australia.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I agree. Member for Albany, I was home at the end of the last school holidays and just about every person I bumped into in the supermarket had wonderful tans. They all told me how they had just been to Bali. I said, "What are you all going to Bali for? Why don't you go up north?" They said that Bali is cheaper. It is cheaper to fly to Bali than it is to fly to Geraldton. It is cheaper to fly to Bali than it is to fly to Albany. The only government that has tackled that is this one, with its review of intrastate air travel in Western Australia. So, they go to Bali. I think that is a disastrous consequence but that is their choice. Why are they doing that? The exchange rate is up. A couple of years ago Bali had an external shock; it was called a bomb! I remember it because in two different bombings, two people from my town were killed.

Mr P. Papalia: What year was that?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The Bali bombings were a few years ago. There were two different bombings. I cannot remember the date of the second one, but I remember very vividly the first one. Friends of mine and friends of my family were killed. That was an external shock that they responded to. Part of that response was to go out and aggressively position themselves around the world. We did not respond as a state to that sort of threat. This is one of my criticisms of Tourism WA and, more broadly, with the tourism sector. We sit on our hands. We have a tendency to grizzle after the event but we do not do a lot up-front in terms of aggressive marketing to try to deal with these threats. That is why these reforms are positive.

Mr J.N. Hyde: So why are we not spending that? The government is spending all the money on redundancies, not on overseas marketing. You've got it right.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Yes; the member's expertise in business astounds me! The money we are spending in redundancies this year will mean that those people will not be at work next year —

Mr J.N. Hyde: Because you're spending double on consultants!

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: That means the money we would have paid them—but they are not there so we do not have to—stays in the bank and we can spend that on a thing called the marketing and promotion of our state.

Mr J.N. Hyde: On expensive consultants.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Before I finish, I want to highlight what has happened within the Western Australian Tourism Commission since, say, the 2002–03 financial year. We all talk about increases in wages and increases in salary expenses. If members burrow down a little into the figures presented in the budget papers, they will see this—within WATC there is a line item called "Destination Marketing". The amount spent on destination

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marketing is listed there. There is a line item called “Net Cost of all Outputs”. That is the total amount of money the WATC spends. If we divide the amount spent on marketing by the amount spent on all outputs, we sort of get the marketing effort. In 2002–03 that figure was 51.2 per cent. So, 51.2 per cent of all the money WATC spent in 2002–03 went into destination marketing. By 2008–09—the last year, as I recollect, of the former government—in the budget papers that had dropped to 47.5 per cent. When we compare actual marketing spend, it had dropped to 45.8 per cent. Members may say that that is not a big drop—51.2 per cent down to 45.8 per cent. That is a 5.4 percentage point drop in the amount of the Tourism Western Australia budget that goes into marketing. To put that into context, if the effort in 2002–03 on marketing had been maintained, marketing spending would have been \$3 million more in 2008–09 than it actually was. Three million dollars is a lot of extra money. It is an extra 12 per cent to spend on marketing. That is one of the issues that the industry has continually highlighted: of the extra money going into tourism—and the extra money did go in—an increasingly high percentage of it went into head count and FTE, not into addressing the real issues confronting tourism in Western Australia. That is at the heart of why we have got this big challenge ahead of us at the moment.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Is the member saying that those workers did nothing of value for the industry?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I am saying that when we talk to industry, its view is there were too many of them. I am also saying that when we talk to industry, it says that that money would have been better spent in marketing. That is why the minister has engaged on this fundamental reform of the way government funds tourism in Western Australia.

Mr J.N. Hyde: When can you guarantee results? You are saying that there is all this change —

Ms M.M. Quirk: Name the five events?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Seriously, it is a fundamental reform and it will have to deliver better outcomes than if the status quo had remained. It would have to deliver better outcomes than if we get stuck in the offices in St Georges Terrace. Those figures taken out of the budget papers highlight the core of the issue. Can I ask for a very brief extension?

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: There is always this conflict between the Whip and the Leader of the House when a member on the back bench asks for an extension! It never used to be a problem!

Very briefly, I want to touch on a couple of things. I think the minister has been very bold in what she has attempted to do. The member for Hillarys and I get on so well. The minister has done a fantastic job on the fundamental reform, but there are still some challenges ahead. If we seriously think that simply moving money out of FTEs and into marketing is going to solve the problem, we are deluded. I know that is not the minister’s view. There is a lot of hard work to do.

What are some of these critical issues? I will close by touching on them. My view—again, this is just me speaking—is that, as a state, we need to better understand our tourism product. We need to better understand the experiences that we offer to our customers. We confuse ourselves, and therefore we confuse others as we try to present our state to our various markets, whether it is intrastate, interstate or international. A lot of work has to go into understanding what our product is in terms of not only the wonderful natural environment—excluding coalmining, member for Gosnells—and the wonderful built form we have supporting tourism, but also the experience we offer people when they go there. That is an important part. The second thing we have to do, which has been sadly lacking for a long, long time, is to better understand our market—to better understand who it is we are trying to pitch our tourism product to, to better understand how we need to go about appealing to them, and to better understand the linkages we need to put in place to get them to come to us. Some of those linkages are internal to this state in terms of transportation, and perhaps the best example is Indian Ocean Drive. Some of those external linkages are international in terms of international air links to what I hope will one day open up in the form of the Busselton regional airport, badged up, no doubt, as the Margaret River airport, but who cares what it is called? Some of those linkages are cheap, low-cost carriers into the rest of Australia to boost interstate tourism.

Mr F.M. Logan: Just on that, member, how do you think it is that so many low-cost carriers come into the market to fly to Bali, as you pointed out earlier, but you can’t get them to fly to Busselton?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: We do not have an airport that they can land at, so the problem would be that if they took off —

Mr F.M. Logan: What are you talking about? Busselton can take jets.

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Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I wish the member were as smart as he looks.

Mr F.M. Logan: Maybe we didn't spend the money correctly.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: No. Busselton airport is good, but the maximum capacity aircraft is effectively a BA146.

Mr F.M. Logan: A 737.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: No. It is a BA146 or a Fokker 100. To go to a 737 —

Mr F.M. Logan: There you go. That's how much I know about Busselton airport.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: The airport length is about 1 700 metres. To go to a single aisle 737 or the equivalent Airbus, the airport would have to go to about 2 300 metres, and some other work would have to be done in and around the airport. They are the sorts of aircraft —

Mr P.B. Watson: You would have to upgrade security and —

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Yes, a whole lot of other stuff.

Mr F.M. Logan: Would that be a good investment?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: It is something that this minister has supported very strongly, and I have to say that Sheila McHale, whom I still see in the gym, supported it also. I think there is a genuine understanding —

Mr J.N. Hyde: But, member, the reality is that 70 per cent of these intrastate flights are resource related. The flights that are going intrastate now are because of resources and fly in, fly out people. The reality may be that your Busselton airport is going to be for a coalmine in Margaret River, not for tourists.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I am up to the third point. I have talked about better understanding our product and I have talked about better understanding our market. I think the third point—I highlighted this in my discussions about Bali and our state's failure to respond to the sorts of responses that Bali put in place to external shocks like the bomb—is that we need to better understand our competitors and how we respond to them. At the moment we are getting absolutely pantsed by those cheap destinations. Good luck to the people who are going there. I do not have a problem with that. They are exercising their free choice. We have a lot of work to do. There have been times in the past when we have been pantsed or defeated in the market by other Australian states, in particular Queensland, and I think to a lesser degree Victoria. They are better able to understand the first couple of points and sell their product.

The fourth thing that we need to do is address some of the issues around infrastructure shortfall. What do I mean when I talk about infrastructure shortfall? I am talking about accommodation. The point about Scarborough was raised. A dearth of new hotels are being constructed in Western Australia. One of the reasons there is a dearth of infrastructure in tourism is not to do with approvals and it is not to do with tardy bureaucrats; it is to do with the lack of return on tourism product. The return on tourism product in this state is very low. There is some money in operating infrastructure; there is not a lot of money in owning it. That is an area in which the government has the capacity to be innovative. We have the capacity, for example, to look at alternative land use tenure models that can reduce the cost of acquiring the land and, by extension, increase the return on investment. They are the sorts of things that we need to be looking at, especially in the more remote areas of Western Australia. Similarly, at the other end of the market, we need to look at infrastructure for low-cost holidays to appeal to Western Australians. A very excellent report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee dealt with that matter.

The final thing is that we have to provide infrastructure so that we can get out and better enjoy and better utilise our natural assets. We have a state that has some wonderful national parks. The member for Rockingham talked about those. The problem is that we have a department that looks after those national parks, and the thing that people cannot do is go in there and enjoy them.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: That's not true.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Go to the Cape Range National Park, my friend.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Haven't you got a pass for your car?

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: For what?

Mr C.J. Tallentire: For visiting national parks.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: For the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park, where I go, people do not need them. For the others, I just pay as I go in. I do not have a problem with paying.

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Mr C.J. Tallentire: So you can go into them. You just said that you couldn't go into them.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Not to all, but to some. However, there is a whole lot more of Western Australia that people are being locked out of.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: I'm glad you're conceding that you can go into our national parks.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: Yes, but there are a whole lot of areas that people cannot go into, and there are a whole lot of areas in which a whole lot of activities are denied—for example, camping in the Cape Range National Park.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: You can't go in there with a trail bike, but there are other activities that you can go in and undertake.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: I can take the member for Gosnells to areas of the Cape Range National Park in which hundreds of Western Australians have historically holidayed and to which they can no longer go.

A member: On trail bikes, that is true.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: No, people cannot go there. They cannot pitch a tent. They cannot have a wee under the tree there. They cannot do any of that sort of stuff there, and that is just the way it is.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: You want people to be able to sleep anywhere and everywhere, do you, and even light up fires anywhere? An uncontrolled campaign—that's what you want.

Mr T.R. BUSWELL: No. I am just making a point.

Let me just close by saying again that it is absolute lunacy to criticise a tourism minister who is, in an innovative way, reforming Tourism Western Australia to tackle a long-term trend. It is not a problem of her creation, and it is probably not even a problem of the former government's creation, but it is a long-term trend. I support it; we all support it, but this will bring about change. However, if we sit here and think that that will solve the problems confronting the tourism industry in Western Australia, we are dreaming. There is a heck of a lot more work to do, but at least now we have a responsive framework in place that will enable us to tackle some of those issues.

MR T.G. STEPHENS (Pilbara) [6.06 pm]: When external shocks came to the tourism industry in the past in the period in which we were in government, it led to a dramatic response from government. I want to give the example of that external shock associated with the collapse of Ansett—the one that the member for Vasse described as the collapse of Qantas. At that time when Ansett crashed, effectively stripping from Western Australia the infrastructure which we had become dependent upon as a state and which was embedded within our whole fabric of doing business in the tourism industry, and when the modes of operation of air transport in Western Australia were the Airlines of Western Australia and its successor, the Ansett operation, the government of Western Australia was absolutely at the emergency stations. The Premier of the day, Geoff Gallop, made sure that there was, in double-quick time, an emergency gathering of the ministers, under the leadership of Alannah MacTiernan, with her responsibilities for planning and infrastructure. The tourism minister was there and the regional development minister was there at the table. The resources of the government were brought together to respond to that crisis as rapidly as was humanly possible.

What happened was that within days Qantas had come into the network as a direct consequence of the actions of the government of the day. In my case, I was designated the task of getting Geoff Dixon, the CEO of Qantas, to bring into Western Australia his senior executives. Alan Joyce and Ian Gay were brought in, with operatives from Sydney. I think we had them in the north west within two days, and alternative airline routes were established, bringing Qantas into the north west to respond to the enormous challenges that had developed as a result of that crisis.

I know that sarcasm is hard to record in *Hansard*, but what is the contrasting response of the current government to the crisis figures that we have been describing here in this chamber today? We have seen the crisis figures that the government is faced with. We have seen the recorded figures showing drops in visitor numbers of 8.2 per cent in the north west in the 12 months between March 2009 and March 2010. Also in the north west there has been a 10.6 per cent drop in the number of visitors staying overnight. In the golden outback, there has been a 21 per cent drop in visitor numbers, and a 26.3 per cent drop in the number of visitors staying overnight. In the Kimberly, the tourism operators, the laundry operators and the hotel operators are saying to the government of the day that there is a crisis. But what does this government do? It simply boasts about what the Minister for Tourism is doing, as though she is presiding over some sort of success, just because she has restructured things. However, in the process of that restructuring, a disaster is unfolding for Western Australia. There is apparently no response to that disaster. This minister is a brilliant Minister for Tourism—for Bali! She should be made a

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cabinet minister in Bali, because she has been delivering so many tourists out of Western Australia to Bali while she has been in the job! A crisis is unfolding. But what is the government doing? It is boasting about what this minister is delivering for Western Australia, while more and more people from all over this state are going to Bali, and at the same time the hotels and tourism facilities of Western Australia are finding themselves in crisis.

In my part of the world, the Pilbara, there is an absolute need for the Minister for Tourism to focus on the challenges in the Pilbara. One of the challenges in the Pilbara is the bottlenecks that are being caused by the lack of critical infrastructure for the region. The minister needs to show some leadership in her portfolio. However, rather than do that, the minister seems to be championing the cause of the people of Bali and making sure that more and more Western Australians head in that direction. The minister is doing nothing to respond to the challenge of providing infrastructure in the Pilbara. One part of that challenge in the Pilbara is to make sure that assets are made available, and are brought on stream rapidly, for the development of tourism facilities. However, all I see from this minister is negligence. All I see is portfolios that are not being kicked into gear. This minister seems to be well deserving of a medal from the government with responsibility for promoting tourism in Bali. However, she deserves the condemnation of this house, not only from the people of Western Australia, but also from the tourism operators and the tourism industry in Western Australia, because they are experiencing a crisis to which there has been no commensurate government response.

I can tell members what happened when I was the Minister for Regional Development and during the time when Qantas was left with the task of picking up after the collapse of Ansett. The Premier at the time grabbed funds from the regional development portfolio and made those funds immediately available for the tourism sector for marketing and for strategies aimed at securing a flow of additional visitor numbers once the Qantas networks were put in place in this state. Significant funds were taken from the regional development portfolio to bolster the tourism portfolio. I can tell members that I found it quite hard to part with some of those funds in the regional portfolio. But, over time, I have seen the benefits that can flow from a crisis response on the part of government. I have seen the benefits that flowed from a crisis response that was able to rapidly turn around the problem that the Western Australian community was experiencing at that time and was able to put in place transport networks that have benefited the tourism industry in recent years, not only in the Pilbara, but also in the Kimberley and increasingly in other parts of the state. There is a crisis. The drop in visitor numbers justifies this motion being put before the house. If any other minister was experiencing the disastrous statistics that are on display from the Western Australian Tourism Commission, the Premier of the day would be on top of that minister and would transfer that minister out of that portfolio. The Premier of the day would be gifting that minister to Bali and would be getting on with the job of rebuilding the tourism industry in Western Australia. Instead of that, we have seen the sacking of the chief executive officer of that agency and the shutting down of some of its offices. We have seen a minister who is being propped up by the Premier and by her colleagues, at the same time as she is presiding over the disasters in her portfolios—plural. This minister is watching the destruction of the tourism industry, at the same time as she is boasting about what she is doing in the job!

That is not good enough for the people of Western Australia, and that is not good enough for the tourism industry. The livelihood of people in the tourism industry depends upon this government making a rapid response and focusing its determination and effort on providing the necessary resources and funding to promote Western Australia not only around Australia but also around the globe. Successful strategies, as have been deployed in the past, and partnerships with the major players will deliver into the beds, onto the airline networks, and into the buses and the cars people who will come to this state to enjoy the benefits on offer and who will, in turn, create jobs upon which Western Australians can build a future. This is not going to happen under this minister. This minister has a level of incompetence that is unparalleled. This minister has a level of misplaced self-confidence that is exceeded only by the misplaced confidence of the Premier in this minister's skills. It is time for this motion to be carried by this house as an expression of censure of the Minister for Tourism for her failure to recognise the crisis with which this state is faced.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [6.16 pm]: I do not need to look at statistics such as those that other members have brought up today. As I go around my local community, I can see that the tourism operators have no confidence in the Minister for Tourism. They are struggling. Their staff are being put off. Albany is struggling at the moment on many fronts. Tourism is a major part of our —

Mr P. Abetz interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is the member for Southern River going to say something or is he just going to sit there and be smart?

I have been in this chamber for 10 years. I can remember when the member for Churchlands, the now Minister for Tourism, was sitting on this side of the chamber and was attacking the then Minister for Tourism and the

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standards of this house. Now that the member for Churchlands is on the government side of the house, she is a failure as the Minister for Education, and she is a failure as the Minister for Tourism. I used to like the member for Churchlands when she was on this side of the house, but I now realise that when she was on this side of the house she had a lot of things to say but no responsibility.

Mr P. Abetz interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Does the member want me to bully him? He should come here and I will have a crack at him!

Several members interjected.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Now that the member for Churchlands is on the other side of the house and has to make decisions, things are very different. The Minister for Tourism can sit here in Perth and say that her strategies are going well. The minister should come to Albany and talk to the tourism operators. Albany has now been put into the south west tourism precinct. When we ask people where the south west is, they say Bunbury or Margaret River. No-one considers Albany to be part of the south west. In all the advertising that is done about the south west, very little is said about Albany. I have brought up this matter with the minister several times, and I have had meetings with the minister, but nothing has been done. The minister has not even given me a reply. I must admit that the member for Vasse made some very good points today. I do not always agree with what he says —

Mr A.J. Waddell: Some of it was wrong.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, but some of the things that he said were right. The Western Australian Tourism Commission does not always do the right thing. Albany is not part of the Great Southern or anything like that. Albany has just been made a part of the south west. Tourism operators in Albany have gone to Perth to raise their concerns about that. But their concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: Where do you want Albany to be?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I want Albany to either be part of the Great Southern or be just Albany. Esperance has been put in with the Goldfields. I assume the Minister for Water would not be happy about that. The City of Albany has had to form its own tourism group. That group is called Amazing Albany. I have a crack at the City of Albany quite often. It had to form its own tourism group, because the state government is not doing it. We talk about the cheap flights to Bali. There are also cheap flights that are coming to Perth from the eastern states because of all the extra airlines that have been set up. We cannot use that excuse if everyone is going overseas. We are not marketing what we have. Albany has so many things for tourists to experience. We have the Anzacs' history and great old buildings. Albany was the first settlement. Whale World is known throughout the world as the last whaling station and has been made into a tourist area.

Mr P. Abetz: It's a good one; I'll give you that.

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is a bonus; thanks.

I have never seen so many ministers stand in this place to protect another minister. I am a little disappointed with the Minister for Sport and Recreation. The only reason he will not support the motion is that the main tourism areas are on the coast, so they are not in his electorate. It is typical of National Party members; they look after their own areas, which are inland. The Minister for Sport and Recreation said that sport is part of tourism. That is fair enough, but what will that do for Albany? He spoke about the government doing things. The tourism people forget that if a major event is held in Perth, tourists flow to Albany, Geraldton and Bunbury, but if we do not have major events —

Dr E. Constable: There are 44 major events this year.

Mr P.B. WATSON: But what are they, minister? We need to have an icon event. We want to attract people to Western Australia. The Minister for Tourism has said that we have the car race. That is great, but I do not think many people will come from the eastern states for it. The people involved in the running of the event will come, but I do not think that too many people from Albany or Melbourne or Asia will come for that race. We have a market in Asia, but we cannot attract those people to Western Australia. People have said that there are cheap flights to Asia. The member for Perth asked why we do not get them coming the other way and everyone poo-hooed it. We have a tremendous market here. Western Australia is the golden state. In the north of the state we have Broome. We also have the south west—Albany, Esperance and Kalgoorlie. We have a tremendous number of tourist attractions, but they are not being exploited. Whose job is that? Is it the job of the tourism minister? I said that I was not going to talk about the numbers of tourists, but it has been said that there has been a decline of seven per cent in visitor numbers in the south west. I was told by the tourism people in Albany this afternoon that the figure for Albany is closer to 30 per cent. Albany relies a lot on tourism. The Premier said that Albany

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has lost a hotel but it is going to get two hotels. The Esplanade Hotel site has been put up for sale for \$15 million, and a hotel will be built as part of the development of the foreshore, which was started under the previous Labor government. It is great that Albany will get two hotels, but if we do not let people know what is in Albany and we cannot attract them to Western Australia with major events, what is the good of having those hotels? The member for Scarborough said that there are hotels in her electorate. That is great, but if the tourists are not coming, the hotels will simply put off staff.

I do not have the answers. I do not want to criticise the minister too much. People are saying that the minister is doing a great job but tourist numbers are decreasing. Tourism is a vital part of my community, just as it is for Denmark, Walpole and the hinterland surrounding Albany. People come to Albany to shop. If we keep losing tourists at the rate that we are losing them now, a lot of tourism places are going to close down and they will not come back. Albany has some of the best boutique bed and breakfasts in the state. Businesses are closing their doors. I spoke to some other country members today. There are real issues in regional areas at the moment. Large businesses are closing. A lot of that is a flow-on effect of tourists not coming to town. What is the answer? The answer is to upgrade the Albany airport and have direct flights from Melbourne, as is done in Kalgoorlie.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: What happened to the Esplanade Hotel and the Paul Terry exhibition? That was an amazing and fantastic tourist attraction for Albany.

Mr P.B. WATSON: It was bought by an overseas consortium; I think it was from Thailand. I have heard all sorts of reasons it was knocked down, but it was mainly for tax purposes. Both the state and local governments tried to do something about it. Can members imagine what would happen if we went to Thailand and picked the biggest iconic hotel on the beach and knocked it down but did not do anything for three years? We would get thrown in jail. We do not have laws in Australia to stop that from happening. We have the most expensive sandpit in Australia with all the socks around it.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: That process took place when you were in government.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes, I know. But I am saying that it was knocked down, so what can we do? We need to make sure that something like that does not happen again, because it has affected tourism in Albany. There was nothing that could legally be done to stop that consortium. When it knocked down the hotel, it had a memorandum of understanding with the City of Albany that it would rebuild within 12 or 18 months, but it just did not do it. The City of Albany was told that it could not do anything about it.

Mr B.S. Wyatt: There's still the Dog Rock, member!

Mr P.B. WATSON: Yes!

I think that the two portfolios that the minister has responsibility for are too big. I know that when the Liberal Party came to government, she wanted to be the Speaker. I think that would have been a better option. I know that she was talked into going into other areas.

Dr G.G. Jacobs: That is conjecture.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Is it just conjecture? I want to go forward; I do not want to attack the minister. It is great that she has put all these people off and is going to have advertising. I just hope that the advertising helps my electorate, because we are struggling. I have looked at the figures and the situation is not improving. I rang the tourist bureau today and I was told that the figure is closer to 40 per cent. That means that half the staff from the tourist bureau have gone. Bed and breakfasts are closing down. We can talk about what the previous Labor government did not do, but the Liberal Party is in government and it has to do something now.

MS A.R. MITCHELL (Kingsley) [6.27 pm]: I rise to speak against the motion. I wish to follow on a little from the comments of the member for Vasse. He spoke about the need for a strategic change of direction by the tourism commissioner of Western Australia. I want to talk about Eventscorp, a component of Tourism Western Australia, and why I believe it needed to go through some change. The changes that are occurring will certainly result in some improvements. They will not happen overnight, but it has been absolutely important. We quite often hear people on the radio ask what Eventscorp is doing. Once upon a time Eventscorp was doing things like trying to secure and run events. I need to preface my remarks by saying that I am probably speaking from a sporting perspective, which is very similar to the culture and the arts perspective. Let me say categorically that there is no way that public servants can secure and run events. It does not and should not work. When Eventscorp was trying to do those operations, Western Australia was struggling. We are now seeing the impact of that struggle. The changes that are occurring in the approach that Eventscorp will take should assist those sporting events. I will explain a little about sporting events.

Mr F.M. Logan: By the way, how was Wimbledon, member?

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Ms A.R. MITCHELL: It was fantastic; I thank the member. I will refer to a couple of communications that I had while I was there. This is part of my discussion, member for Cockburn, so I will bring it up.

Sporting events do not just happen. Sporting events are not achieved by trotting overseas somewhere with a proposal in hand and sitting in a meeting. That does not attract a sporting event to this state or to any other place in the world. That is why public servants cannot do it. They actually need to have relationships—ongoing and built-up relationships. They need to get to know people. They need to spend time with people.

Mr J.N. Hyde interjected.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: That is why I continue to travel and keep those contacts going. That is how things happen. Yes, I would value an organisation in the public sector that could support me in some of those processes, but the public sector cannot do it. Any event that WA has of standing is marketed through other agencies and other bodies. We must make sure that we have people in this state who have good relationships with their national and international sporting bodies who can build up those relationships, sell Western Australia and promote how it can happen, and who also have the support of an agency behind them that can provide that added-on value to what is going on. We have not had that.

I recall not that long ago people talking in jest and laughing at Eventscorp staff because they used to run around with their passports in their pockets laughing about where they were going next, when the rest of us knew that they were actually embarrassing us because it did not happen that way. Yes, I have been to meetings in Eventscorp offices as I was working on other events, knowing that the people who were chairing these meetings or trying to coordinate them really did not know how to market these things. They are a significant part of it and we do need that added-on value, because I will say that sporting people do not know how to market events. Sporting organisations are very good at conducting events, and some are pretty good at securing events, but they do not market and they do not get —

Mr J.N. Hyde: So Eventscorp was no good for the Hopman Cup; you guys did it all yourselves!

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Yes, we did. What does Eventscorp do? I will get on to what Eventscorp should do. It is important that it is there, but how it starts, what it does and the running of it is not a public sector responsibility. What should Eventscorp do? I will go into that quite quickly. These events cost a lot of money. These events need additional support. Having that stamp of approval—“This is a government-backed event”—is very important. It has a lot of standing. That sponsorship is particularly important.

The other thing that we can do, and once again it depends on the organisation and the event we are conducting in WA, is help an organisation with some advice. I have said no, they do not need it, although sporting events actually get it, but sometimes an event needs a nice proposal for that final tip over the line. They do need extra things. Many people in a sporting organisation do not have the contacts to open some doors. I recall that in some of the places I have been with sporting events and sporting meetings, it was those extra things that tipped them over the line. It sounds silly; I know. But if I am in Barcelona and I am having the major dinner at a castle, that rings true when there are other people bidding for the event, conference or whatever. Those things are important and Eventscorp, or an organisation such as that, should be in a position to open the doors that a person who is involved in other events probably cannot open, and should not be expected to be able to open. So it is the relationships that people in that sector may have and the opportunities and the contacts that they have that add to the event that is being marketed. Those things are absolutely essential. I can only say that the direction in which the minister has moved Eventscorp—there is still some way to go; we are not there yet—will make a difference. But as I have said to the Minister for Sport and Recreation—I am sure the Minister for Culture and the Arts thinks similarly—we have to make sure that there are other people in this state who have the ability to negotiate nationally and internationally to hold these events here in WA.

I will refer to some of the events that we do have. We should not take them for granted. We should not assume they will be held here. That is when Eventscorp can add to them. Using those same principles that I have mentioned previously, Eventscorp can add to them. There is no doubt that the costs, requirements and expectations of many international events are going through the roof. I have heard people ask on the radio many times why we did not get or why we lost this or that event.

Many people do not understand that the requirements of many organisations are almost getting beyond control. I do not want to mention any in this place but there are some I would not touch with a barge pole! That is because what might look good on the surface could actually work against us down the track. I am sure we have all heard of events and conferences that in hindsight cost an awful lot of money but may not have been that good. We therefore always have to balance those things. Sometimes the public does not understand that, and we have to ride with that and accept that.

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I will also talk about home-grown events, which come up quite often on talkback radio and things like that. Home-grown events certainly are the way to go. But home-grown events on their own will not last because of the intense competition that is around overseas and also because they do not have backing. The Hopman Cup was a home-grown event and it was terrific, but it had to move to the international body to retain any position in the sport. We therefore might start with a home-grown event, we can build it, but eventually we have to work with an international body. If that relationship is strong—I believe our relationship with the Hopman Cup is—it will be held here, albeit there are always some little hiccups along the way, because that international body is being offered many more times the amount of money that we in this state can put into it. But the relationship will hold it strong.

Just remember: home-grown events are good. That is where Eventscorp can be very helpful, because some organisation might have just the germ of an idea, build it up and that other support can make a difference. We can actually get a good event if we start with an idea, build it up and build the relationships; then we can create something. But we do not do it on a whim of “let us just create something” because it will not have the standing in an international community of people who know that it will survive. There is always competition between events. There is always competition between organisations. We have to have a strong, solid core to go through with that.

Another issue I hear of quite often is that events on the Eventscorp calendar are coming to WA anyway. In many cases they are, but it is being able to secure those events time and again with the support of Eventscorp that makes the difference. Yes, the cricket test will be in Perth, but it does not just happen. The organisers of test cricket do not say, “We must give a test to Perth.” The organisers of rugby do not say, “We must play some internationals in Perth.” It is those other things that add to it. Yes, they are coming because other people have done some work, but it is done with the backing of Eventscorp and the state government. Please do not ever preclude that; those things are very important.

I will refer to a conversation I had while I was overseas. One gentleman said to me, “We must come back to Perth and what we are trying to do is combine it with a cricket test and the tennis.” Those things do happen. Sporting events—other ones do too—do bring people to Perth. It is the build-up and the talk about it, particularly overseas—we need the marketing campaigns—and those general connections that do work. People do come because they have heard about the event and have heard from someone else who has spoken about it. The gentleman I spoke to is trying to combine a cricket test and the Hopman Cup.

Mr J.N. Hyde: So, why has the Eventscorp budget and staff been cut by half?

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: It is going into the marketing. We do not need the sorts of people who were there. They could not assist the organisations with the help they needed. The changes will provide that additional support. It is a different sort of person now; it is a different sort of position.

Another matter I want to briefly mention, which I had not planned to, is regional Western Australia. Once again a very important thing to do is use the vehicles that we have—I will say sport and recreation—to get people into regional Western Australia. The member for Geraldton is not present in the chamber, but I recall a few years ago that 77 per cent of the tourism into Geraldton at that stage was through sport and recreation. We do therefore have vehicles that we can use. Easter events and long weekends can be used to get people out to such events as country cups, horse racing —

Mr J.N. Hyde: Veterans’ tennis.

Ms A.R. MITCHELL: Well done to the lady who got the polo match in Broome. It is a germ; it is a start; it could grow. That is where we build on sport: we grow it. Let us use those vehicles and the facilities that we have to get those out there. I remember trying to reinvent the Wheatbelt and asking what we were going to do to get people out into the Wheatbelt. There is a golf tour and the opportunity to stay at bed and breakfast hotels and have a nice night. People can do things. They have vehicles and they do not always need something big and new. We can do it, and I applaud the minister for changing the position of Eventscorp and how it is going to work in the future, because I believe that we will see results.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [6.40 pm]: I rise to support this motion moved by the member for Perth. My practical experience in tourism relates especially to the Coral Coast of the state, which is one of our most marketable natural tourism assets. It is an absolute tragedy that we have seen a 10 per cent decline in tourism along the Coral Coast. It is a wonderful area that extends from Carnarvon up to Exmouth and takes in all the Ningaloo Reef. It is an area that has so many features that appeal to people but it is an absolute tragedy that we have lost so many tourists.

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There is an argument that says that we have suffered the consequences of the global financial crisis and, therefore, international tourists have not had the financial means to come to Western Australia to enjoy our Coral Coast area. The reality is that this was a perfect opportunity to balance things out, because during the global financial crisis we have seen a drop in fuel prices. There has been a stabilisation of fuel prices. The Coral Coast is within perfect driving distance of Perth, the major centre in Western Australia, so people could very easily have driven to the Coral Coast had there been the necessary marketing in place to encourage Western Australians to enjoy the Coral Coast while there was that inevitable downturn in the number of overseas visitors.

It is not just about marketing and a failure to choose promotional mechanisms to get Western Australians to the Coral Coast; it is also about a failure of policy and some very disappointing policy decisions. If I may point to one, it relates to the minister's portfolio. It also relates to the planning portfolio. Under the Gallop and Carpenter governments, we had an excellent body in place that came under the Western Australian Planning Commission called the Ningaloo Sustainable Development Committee. I was a member of that committee. The committee was set up under a mechanism known as a regional interim development order, which took in the Shire of Carnarvon and the Shire of Exmouth, not the towns of Exmouth and Carnarvon but all those areas in between, and was almost a specialist in looking at all kinds of tourism developments that were to be considered along the Ningaloo coast.

The Barnett government's disbanding of that so rapidly on coming into government showed its failure to appreciate what kind of tourism asset we actually have on the Ningaloo coast. We made sure that we had well-coordinated and well-planned decisions that looked at particular development approval applications for ecotourism lodges, and hotel developments in some cases. We had to do that in a very carefully staged and integrated manner that looked at the scale of development and considered it in the context of the natural environment, the demand and the origin of tourists who come to Western Australia. What did the Barnett government do? It disbanded the Ningaloo Sustainable Development Committee. It lost a lot of expertise that had been gathered on the committee and also in the officers. The Ningaloo Sustainable Development Office, which was run by David Nunn, was an organisation that understood intimately the needs of that region and made sure there was that perfect harmony between the operations of the then Department for Planning and Infrastructure and the Department of Environment and Conservation and, indeed, the Department of Fisheries. We had this very sensible coming together of agencies through the planning mechanism. It was a sensible step, but it was thrown away.

One of the immediate responses to that change in policy was the cancelling of the whale shark festival, which had been an immensely successful event. I recall meeting the member for North West, who is not in the chamber at the moment, at the whale shark festival, I think in 2008. It was an event that showcased the region and enabled people to really enjoy all that the region had to offer. However, because of a lack of support, I suspect from the minister's office and subsequently perhaps from her agency, that festival was cancelled. In 2009 and 2010 there was no whale shark festival. What else goes on? We see a general decline in numbers and a loss of general infrastructure in the area. We see a failure to really promote the benefits of that area. Many good people still have a passion for promoting the many different styles of tourism along the Coral Coast. I fear that those people will be lost not just to Western Australia but to Australia. Their expertise can be used elsewhere, because people in many other places in the world are well aware of how one has to market tourism assets in a way that is compatible with the protection of the natural values.

Coming down the coast a little from the Coral Coast into the Geraldton area, we have seen a general slowdown in the activity there. Fortunately, there has been some corporate and business activity by using the excellent conference facilities that are there, which were built mostly under the Gallop government. I think that some of the planning for some of the facilities that are there may have taken place under the Court government. There are some excellent facilities. Geraldton is now a wonderful place to put on an event. I fear, though, that we do not see that kind of planning going forward for the rest of the Coral Coast area. The Kalbarri area is suffering dramatically because Greyhound bus services have been cancelled or have been severely reduced. That translates directly into a reduction in the number of tourists who head to Kalbarri. Greyhound bus services may be the transport choice mostly of backpacker tourists, but the reality is that those people are great spenders. They stay longer in the region and they spend very well when they are in different regions. We must therefore make sure that we are catering for people who prefer to be backpacker-type tourists.

Some of the more glamorous or more prestigious types of developments are also being neglected. In the case of the Coral Coast it comes back to this issue of the failure to have the necessary competency in the planning process. I know that during the time of the Carpenter government a proposal was made to have a Hilton hotel in the town of Coral Bay. Members may be aware that in Coral Bay there are essentially three major landholders, each of which has plans and varying degrees of expertise in the hospitality sector. They have their plans and they

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have their financial backing, and they are looking at different things. There was a proposal to develop the Coral Bay pub into a Hilton—not an enormous scale Hilton but one that would have been in keeping with the town of Coral Bay. Tragically, I think because of a lack of expertise in the planning process, we seem to have lost that particular development.

The figures speak for themselves because there has been a 27.7 per cent decline in the number of nights stayed on the Coral Coast by interstate visitors. That is the most dramatic decline in the different tourism categories. Surely, we could have done better than to lose that. I accept the prices on trips to Bali may be attractive to many people, but here was an opportunity to work with local tourism operators, get them to make sure that their packaging and their pricing was attractive to the Western Australian and eastern states' visitor crowd and to attract them into this state. That would have been a sensible thing to have done.

I support this motion. We need to condemn the apparent lack of interest from the minister. We must turn around our tourism industry, which has so much potential and is an industry worth potentially billions of dollars. We should never be neglecting it in the way that we are currently doing.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park) [6.49 pm]: I realise the time so I will be brief. It is somewhat interesting that when the Minister for Tourism responded today, she started off by saying that her portfolio cuts across 19 others and that she should not be held responsible for what happens; it is not her fault and there are 12 other ministers responsible for this area, not just her. The biggest external shock to hit tourism in Western Australia was the member for Vasse and the Minister for Tourism. It has nothing to do with anything other than the investment that this state has made over the past two years in tourism.

I want to respond quickly to the comments made by member for Vasse. He told quite a tale about how in the current financial year 2010–11 there was an increase in the tourism budget. He is correct; there is an increase. There is a 5.75 per cent increase in the budget. The beauty of questions on notice is that we know that that small spike in the budget is because the government has to pay for the redundancies somehow. The member for Vasse did not go on and talk about the three years thereafter. Let us have a quick look at what happens to the tourism budget for the three years after 2010–11. I will look at it on a real basis because I will come back to some comments the member for Vasse made not that long ago when he was on this side of the house that expose his contradictions when he moves from one side of the place to the other. In 2011–12, there is a real cut in the tourism budget of 17.8 per cent and a further real cut in 2012–13 of 10.5 per cent. If we compare that with GSP growth—that is, how the state is growing over the forward estimates compared with how the tourism budget is growing over the forward estimates—we find a massive 22.52 per cent cut in 2011–12 alone, and a further cut of 13.5 per cent in 2012–13. What does that mean over time? It means that in 2009–10 the budget for the Western Australia Tourism Commission was \$56.9 million—as the member for Vasse said, some \$60 million. By 2013–14, that declines to \$49.5 million. We are seeing a wholesale gutting of the tourism budget. That is the reality. That is what the member for Vasse did not mention when he was responding today. He talked about the small spike this year but then forgot about the reality of basically a quarter of the budget disappearing over the next four years.

I have a question for the minister. She has had her say so she will not get a chance to respond but we will put it to the minister in questions on notice. How much of this enormous marketing budget that we have heard about tonight is being spent on consultants; that is, re-employing as consultants people that the department has sacked? I dare say quite a few. The reason I say that is because I have just employed a new electorate officer who used to work at the Tourism Commission. He was sacked and immediately re-hired on a consultant basis. He did this for a few months before he realised it was perhaps not the most secure employment going around and thankfully he is now working for me.

The comments from the other side of the house from the member for South Perth, the minister herself and the member for Vasse showed a turn on the Red Bull Air Race. Now they are saying that the Red Bull Air Race was a gimmick and it did not deliver anything. The member for South Perth said it was loud, it hurt his ears and no-one came. This is what the Liberal government is saying about the Red Bull Air Race. The minister made the same comments. It is worth going back and looking at her media releases on the Red Bull Air Race. Her media statement dated 26 October 2008 outlined —

More than 300,000 people line the Swan River to watch the race, which is also viewed by about 100 million people around the world.

The member for South Perth said that these 300 000 people were all from Western Australia—every single one of them. On 30 October 2008, just four days after this media release, the minister put out another media release reading —

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“It draws thousands of additional visitors to Perth — in 2006, about 9,000 visitors spent almost \$13million here — and promotes WA to a potential worldwide television audience of 100 million.

Her media release from the following year, dated 14 December 2009, said that as a result of TV rights, there are millions of spectators around the world. Finally, on 14 April 2010, she put out a media statement stating —

“Perth is one of only nine cities around the world to host the Red Bull Air Race, and it attracted thousands of additional visitors last time it was held here ...

“The event is an effective way to promote Perth as imagery of the Swan River and city skyline is broadcast to millions of prospective visitors in more than 100 countries — the race will also be broadcast live nationally this Sunday to thousands of prospective visitors on free-to-air and Pay TV.”

Before the minister, the member for South Perth and the member for Vasse start saying that the Red Bull Air Race did not attract anybody to Perth, they should go back and have a look at what the minister was saying in her media releases over the past few years.

I want to come back to the comments of the member for Vasse. He got to his feet tonight and displayed some of the greatest hypocrisy that I have heard from him in quite some time. Believe me, that is saying something. When Hon Sheila McHale sat on the government benches as the Minister for Tourism, in my second week in Parliament the member for Vasse came into this place talking about the real cut to the tourism budget. He said —

Tourism is here and now. Tourism will be here in 20 years and in 100 years. It should be the centrepiece of what the government is about. It is not deserving of a reduction of between 20 and 25 per cent in real funding. Those are the facts as contained in the budget. The Treasurer will have to do better than that.

We did not hear anything; there were no complaints. According to the member for Vasse, he had scepticism about the WATC since 1991. Never before has the former Treasurer, the disgraced member for Vasse, mentioned any of this. Never before has he gone into this scepticism that he had before. When he sat on this side of the house he never suggested that there was anything wrong with the WATC. Never before did he suggest that there is something wrong with the declining numbers over the past decade. As the minister’s own 2010–11 budget papers say —

According to the most recent Tourism Satellite Account ... the Western Australian tourism industry generates over 82,000 jobs and injects \$7.3 billion into the Western Australian economy.

The problem we have is that we have a Premier obsessed with one thing and one thing only, and that is the mining sector. Good on him. It is the key engine of this state. Under this government, tourism has been relegated. The member for Rockingham made the point that we do not have a tourism minister with the capacity to spend the time needed to manage tourism, to develop a strategy, to go to the Economic and Expenditure Reform Committee and ensure that it is well funded and coordinated in a way that tourism needs. That is why we are seeing tourism decline in importance in Western Australia. As the minister herself said when she first got to her feet, there have been cuts across 19 agencies and 12 different ministers and she should not be held to account. She said that that is the problem with it and it is another minister’s fault.

This is the reality: this government is not interested in tourism. It gutted the budget by 25 per cent over the forward estimates. We go from \$60 million to below \$50 million in four years. This is an extraordinary result. When the member for Vasse sat on this side of the house, he completely and utterly went after the former minister about much smaller cuts. If he is going to come into this place and say that he knows tourism and he has driven buses, he should stand up for tourism rather than stand up for the claptrap coming from the Minister for Tourism tonight.

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Extract from *Hansard*
[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 11 August 2010]
p5373b-5405a

Mr John Hyde; Mr Mark McGowan; Mr John Day; Acting Speaker; Mr Terry Waldron; Dr Elizabeth Constable;
Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr Troy Buswell; Mr Tom Stephens; Mr Peter Watson; Ms Andrea Mitchell; Mr Chris
Tallentire; Mr Ben Wyatt

Ayes (23)

Ms L.L. Baker
Mr R.H. Cook
Ms J.M. Freeman
Mr J.N. Hyde
Mr W.J. Johnston
Mr F.M. Logan

Mr M. McGowan
Mr M.P. Murray
Mr A.P. O’Gorman
Mr P. Papalia
Mr J.R. Quigley
Ms M.M. Quirk

Mr E.S. Ripper
Mrs M.H. Roberts
Ms R. Saffioti
Mr T.G. Stephens
Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr P.C. Tinley

Mr A.J. Waddell
Mr P.B. Watson
Mr M.P. Whitely
Mr B.S. Wyatt
Mr D.A. Templeman (*Teller*)

Noes (29)

Mr P. Abetz
Mr F.A. Alban
Mr C.J. Barnett
Mr I.C. Blayney
Mr J.J.M. Bowler
Mr T.R. Buswell
Ms A.S. Carles
Mr G.M. Castrilli

Mr V.A. Catania
Dr E. Constable
Mr M.J. Cowper
Mr J.H.D. Day
Mr J.M. Francis
Mr B.J. Grylls
Dr K.D. Hames
Mrs L.M. Harvey

Mr A.P. Jacob
Dr G.G. Jacobs
Mr R.F. Johnson
Mr A. Krsticevic
Mr W.R. Marmion
Mr P.T. Miles
Ms A.R. Mitchell
Dr M.D. Nahan

Mr C.C. Porter
Mr D.T. Redman
Mr A.J. Simpson
Mr M.W. Sutherland
Mr J.E. McGrath (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mrs C.A. Martin
Mr J.C. Kobelke

Mr I.M. Britza
Mr T.K. Waldron

Question thus negatived.

House adjourned at 7.02 pm
