

**PERTH THEATRE TRUST AMENDMENT BILL 2014**

*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by **Hon Helen Morton (Minister for Mental Health)**, read a first time.

*Second Reading*

**HON HELEN MORTON (East Metropolitan — Minister for Mental Health)** [3.17pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill before the house provides legislative amendments to the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979. The Perth Theatre Trust venues comprise His Majesty's Theatre, Perth Concert Hall, the State Theatre Centre of Western Australia, Subiaco Arts Centre and Albany Entertainment Centre. The trust has been directly investing in activity in Perth Theatre Trust venues for many years. It has become an integral aspect of the way performing arts content in the state is created and managed, and it complements the productions presented in its venues by the state's major performing arts companies, including West Australian Ballet, West Australian Opera, West Australian Symphony Orchestra and Black Swan State Theatre Company. Perth Theatre Trust's investment has facilitated product diversity, provided employment for local artists, presented international and national artists who would not come to Perth without Perth Theatre Trust investment, and enabled product to be presented at venues when there were no other bookings. Perth Theatre Trust's investment has seen high-profile performances such as *The Graduate* at His Majesty's Theatre in 2010 and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra at Perth Concert Hall in 2010. Perth Theatre Trust's investment has a positive regional impact and has allowed the West Australian Ballet Company, West Australian Opera and Black Swan State Theatre Company to perform at the Albany Entertainment Centre. Perth Theatre Trust's investment has also enabled royalties for regions funding to be used to provide simulcasts of performances in Perth Theatre Trust venues to the regions, including the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in 2010. This bill seeks to make Perth Theatre Trust's investment in its venues explicit in the Perth Theatre Trust Act 1979, providing a stronger legislative framework for investment in programming to form part of the trust's core business.

After consultation with the Department of Treasury, the State Solicitor's Office and the Parliamentary Counsel's Office, the provisions in the bill have been based on contemporary legislation and drafted so as not to limit the nature of the business arrangements the trust can enter into. The bill provides power for the trust to promote or take part in promoting activities at trust theatres. The bill defines an "activity" as an event, performance or production. It defines "promoting", in relation to an activity, as attracting, organising, commissioning, funding, investing in, supporting, marketing, advertising, and acting as project manager. The bill provides further powers for the trust to enter into business arrangements and for the minister and Treasurer to approve the terms and conditions of business arrangements, or for the Treasurer to exempt any business arrangement or class of business arrangement.

Through Perth Theatre Trust's investment, the community has access to a vast range of cultural experiences that enhance the cultural and economic life of Western Australia. Through the provisions in the Perth Theatre Trust Amendment Bill 2014 and in line with the government's decision to bring venue management in-house, Perth Theatre Trust will have the opportunity to increase the quantity and diversity of performances on offer at its venues. This will directly benefit Western Australian theatregoers and the performing arts sector.

For the purposes of standing order 126(1), the bill is not a uniform legislation bill. It does not ratify or give effect to an intergovernmental or multilateral agreement to which the government or the state is a party, nor does this bill, by reason of its subject matter, introduce a uniform scheme or uniform laws throughout the commonwealth.

I present the explanatory memorandum and commend the bill to the house.

[See paper 2355.]

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.