

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES — SCREEN SECTOR — REGIONS

876. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to the diversification of Western Australia's economy. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's successful development of Western Australia's creative industries and the screen sector is developing new jobs in the regions?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I can and I will. I know that the member for Murray–Wellington is an avid follower of the arts, particularly the screen industry. I thank those members who attended the Parliamentary Friends of the Arts launch last evening in the courtyard of Parliament House. The production calendar for the past six months of 2023 is record breaking. In the past six months we have had an injection of nearly \$24 million into the WA economy, with \$6 million of that going to regional Western Australia because of the volume of activity in the screen industry in WA. It is remarkable; it is at record levels and it will continue into 2024 and beyond because of the significant investment by this government in the creative industries and the screen sector more specifically.

As the member knows, the government has been working particularly hard through its production attraction scheme, which involves significant dollars, over \$20 million, over the next four years to support the attraction of productions into Western Australia. Many of those will see film activity in the regions of Western Australia and we know what that means for jobs for those involved in the creative industries and in other industries that are complemented by having a strong and effective vibrant screen industry in the state. The number of jobs that are created through activity, whether it is in the metropolitan area or the filming that takes place in regional Western Australia, is spectacular. It stimulates local economies. It employs and utilises local businesses. It excites the communities. No matter where movies might be filmed in localities around the state, it excites those communities. For example, the series *The Twelve* is being filmed in York. There is great excitement in places like that. A film is being made down south with Nicolas Cage, bringing worldwide attention to Western Australia, both our landscapes and our capacity to tell stories on the screen. That highlights to the world the beauty of Western Australia and the spectacular nature of this state.

We have a few films still to come, and some of them could be analogous to the current state of the opposition of Western Australia. Some might think that the film *Invisible Boys* is a story based on the leadership of the Nationals WA, but it is not. It is a 10-part TV series based on the book by WA author Holden Sheppard. It will be filmed in Perth and Geraldton. The member for Geraldton is already up there scouting for a part in that series! *Runt* is a film —

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I know; I said that carefully!

It is a feature film based on Craig Silvey's bestselling novel. That will be filmed in both the metropolitan area and regional Western Australia. York again gets a spot in the filming. It will inject about \$4.1 million into the WA economy and create over 110 jobs. The production company is delivering a series of initiatives for emerging regional creative practitioners. People who are interested and engaged in the creative industries see a pipeline because for so long so many of our creatives have had to go east. However, this government will stop that because it is investing in the screen industry. It is why we will be building a screen production facility. It is why we have the screen incentive fund and it is why we are so carefully and closely linking in with our wonderful training institutions, including our world famous Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

We Bury the Dead is a feature film starring Daisy Ridley.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: There is a line there, but I am not touching it at the moment!

We Bury the Dead will be filmed in the great southern region in February next year. It will generate \$9.4 million into the WA economy with 200 jobs created. It is a feature film starring the wonderful actress from the Star Wars sequel trilogy, Daisy Ridley. We are attracting international performers as well as our wonderful Western Australian and Australian creatives. Why? It is because we are dinkum about making sure our economy in Western Australia is diversified. That is why we are doing a range of things in science and training and in the creative industries, including the screen industry. *The Twelve* has almost wrapped up filming in York and the metropolitan area.

This is a great news story for Western Australia. It sends a message to those young girls and boys who might live anywhere in Western Australia who have aspiration and a dream to be part of the screen industry or our creative industries in the future that it can happen; they can be a technician, a performer, a dancer or a fine artist in Western Australia and earn a living here because we are investing in the infrastructure and the supporting of that infrastructure. It is a great news story for Western Australia's screen industry and the arts more broadly. I thank the

member for Murray–Wellington and other members who strongly support the creative industries going forward. It is a great story that we want to share with the rest of the world.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party with the last question.