

BUNBURY REGIONAL EVENTS UNIT

1103. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) When was the regional events unit established in Bunbury?
- (2) What is the Government's commitment to staffing the unit?
- (3) How many people are dedicated to the regional events unit in Bunbury?
- (4) When will the Government honour its promise to have two full-time staff dedicated to the unit?
- (5) Which events has the unit attracted to the south west and what events are likely to be seen in the south west over the next 18 months?

Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) July 2002.
- (2) Two people.
- (3) One dedicated full-time staff member who leverages the support services of EventsCorp staff for contract management, event evaluation and public relations.
- (4) Interviews took place last week for the second full-time position. It is expected that the position will be filled by October 2003.
- (5) The role of the unit is to provide support to new and existing events and identify opportunities for events to be developed further. Events supported in the south west since the creation of the unit include the *Sunday Times* Margaret River region wine festival in 2002 and 2003; the 2003 Channel 7 Crab Fest at Mandurah, the 2003 Respect Yourself forest rally; the 2002 Blues at Bridgetown; and the 2003 Salomon Masters at Margaret River. Several events for the south west are currently being evaluated for the next 18 months for regional events scheme funding. These will be announced in the near future.