

TOURISM — PLANNED REGIONAL EVENTS

**727. Mr F.A. ALBAN to the Minister for Tourism:**

This is a government that is focused on developing not just the city but regional areas as well. The success of taking events like the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra performance to country areas is a great example of the progressive thinking of this government.

Will the minister please outline to the house some of the —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, member.

I formally call the member for Pilbara for the second time. I formally call the member for West Swan for the first time. I formally call the member for Mandurah for the second time today, even though I did not see his lips move on this occasion!

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** This is a government that is focused on developing not just the city but regional areas as well. The success of —

*Point of Order*

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Mr Speaker, the chapter in the standing orders dealing with questions contains the word “questions”—it is full of the word, Mr Speaker. The member is making a statement and under standing order 77 a member is not supposed to make a statement, but to ask a question.

**The SPEAKER:** You are providing me with some information, member for Rockingham, and I am always appreciative of that. I endeavour in this place to enable members, in their individual ways—and there are 58 of you—to ask questions in this place if the opportunity arises. I have given the opportunity to the member for Swan Hills.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr F.A. ALBAN:** And for the third time: This is a government that is focused on developing not just the city but regional areas as well. The success of taking events like the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra performances to country areas is a great example of the progressive thinking of this government.

Will the minister please outline for members some of the excellent events planned for regional Western Australia?

**Dr E. CONSTABLE replied:**

I thank the member for Swan Hills for his excellent question.

We all know that tourism is a very important industry in our regions and that it is one in recent times in which some operators have —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Take a seat, minister. I formally call to order the member for Mandurah for the third time today and the member for Armadale for the first time. It is very simple, members. The very simple solution, if you want answers to your questions, is fewer interjections.

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** Tourism in the regions is a very important industry; it is a \$2 billion industry in our regions. The regional events scheme greatly supports tourism in many of our regional areas. It has both economic and social impacts in the towns and regional centres where these events are held. Every year, \$300 000 is spent supporting those regional events—in two lots. The second round of regional events closed on 16 August and, in the second round, \$175 000 has been awarded for 11 events. A number of those events are sporting events, some are cultural events, and some are food and wine events. Some of these events have gradually grown up over many years and some are new. There are three festivals, two of which are music festivals—the Boyup Brook Country Music Festival, which features the state country music awards, and the Nannup Music Festival. Another interesting festival, held every other year, is the Ningaloo Whale Shark Festival. Five different sporting events will be funded under the second round, including Gamex in Exmouth—a fantastic event that I visited earlier this year—and the Leonora Golden Gift, which is Australia’s richest footrace event, with total prize money across the various races of \$50 000, including \$6 000 for the men’s mile and \$6 000 for the women’s mile. This year the event attracted 120 competitors. The Coastal Clash at Lancelin is a new event that features

the multi-sport disciplines of cycling, cross-country running, ocean swimming and ocean paddling. There is also the well-established Busselton Jetty Swim and the Iron Man Western Australia Triathlon at Busselton.

**Mr J.N. Hyde:** Those events have been funded for decades. That is not new money.

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** They are important events. Many of them have been funded for a long time. I am glad the member supports them.

The other major area is in food and wine. Taste Great Southern is a cross-regional event that is held in Denmark, Mt Barker and Albany. It will feature quality produce and wine from the region as well as markets and workshops. One event that I know the members for Mandurah and Dawesville get involved in is the Channel Seven Mandurah Crab Fest, which involves catching, cooking and eating crabs.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** That is not a new event.

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** I did not say that they are all new events. I said that some of them are new events.

I refer also to the Margaret River Wine Region Festival. These events add vibrancy to local communities and allow people to participate as organisers and volunteers.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, members! I formally call the member for Perth to order for the first time and the member for Girrawheen to order for the second time.

**Dr E. CONSTABLE:** These events are going from strength to strength in their importance and in the number of visitors that they attract. Visitor expenditure in the towns enhances tourism. We will continue to build events in the regions as we have done over the past two years.