

WA SCREEN FUND

434. Ms J. FARRER to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

It is good to be back!

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$16 million investment in supporting WA's creative industry through the WA Screen Fund. Can the minister outline to the house what this investment will mean for jobs and businesses in WA's creative industry as it begins to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, and in particular those throughout regional WA?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Kimberley for her question, and it is great to have her back!

As the member is well aware, the great region of the Kimberley has been a magnificent backdrop for many, many regional films, particularly over the last couple of years. Some of those have included television series such as *Mystery Road*, of which we have seen the second series. The member for Kimberley, the Premier and I visited the set of *Mystery Road* in Broome late last year.

Mr M. McGowan: I did some directing!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The Premier did some directing, and let us just say that he should stick to his day job!

The fact of the matter is that we are very proud that the McGowan government has now committed to the continuation of the film fund for regional Western Australia, with \$16 million over the next four years. This means we will see more films made, more documentaries made and more series made, such as *Mystery Road*. There will be more films filmed in regional WA, such as *Dirt Music*; *H is for Happiness*, filmed in Albany; and *Breath*, filmed in Denmark. Mr Speaker, as I turn to you, I say that this plays a very important part in broadening our economy. One thing we need to understand is that the film and cinema industry in Australia, and Western Australia particularly, is now very, very well placed to maximise the fact that we are the safest place on earth. We now have a lot of interest throughout the world and nationally to see more film activity taking place here in Western Australia. This film fund, this investment by the McGowan government, ensures that that channel of work that we need to see so that our own creatives—those who are raised and trained here, whether it be through the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, our education system or our training system—continue to be able to do their work here. That is happening now because of the McGowan government's efforts. I am very proud, and I know that the member for Kimberley is particularly proud, because her wonderful region of Western Australia, like all of the wonderful regions of WA, get to be showcased, and that plays a critical role in the work that the Minister for Tourism is focused on, which is promoting the state of Western Australia to the world. As our new Western Australian Museum is about to open in November, we know some very exciting things are happening in culture and the arts in Western Australia. We are leading.