

CORONAVIRUS — TOURISM INDUSTRY — RECOVERY PACKAGE

553. Ms J. FARRER to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.54 billion recovery plan, which includes a massive investment in upgrading tourism infrastructure across the state.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what this massive investment will mean for WA's iconic tourism destinations?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this major infrastructure package will support local jobs and local businesses?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for her question.

(1)–(2) I am happy to report that the Kimberley is the recipient of a significant investment by the state government as part of the unprecedented \$150 million funding package towards tourism and infrastructure across the state as part of its recovery plan. The Premier; the Minister for Environment; the local member, the member for Mandurah; and I announced only about a week and a half ago an extraordinary commitment across the state in a vast array of different sites, predominantly dealing with providing additional upgrades or new infrastructure to support our magnificent natural attractions. The reason people were flocking to Western Australia from all parts of the globe and particularly all parts of the eastern states before COVID-19 was to visit our unique natural attractions and engage in some of the things people can do nowhere else on the planet, such as swimming with whale sharks and whales; trips into remote parts of the magnificent Kimberley, a place that has unparalleled beauty and also magnificent natural attractions the likes of which there is no equivalent on the planet; and also other parts of the state. There is the beautiful south, with a coast with the whitest sands in the world, where people can walk past kangaroos and get a coffee at Doc's coffee shop on the beach. There are magnificent attractions. There has been fantastic investment in walkways and other amenities to provide better facilities for people who are visiting. There are places in Kalbarri like the Kalbarri gorges, with the great skywalks now delivered by the McGowan government.

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is a key element of the Wander Out Yonder campaign, attracting many thousands of people from the metropolitan area and further south to Kalbarri in numbers the likes of which they have never seen.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: People had better book early if they want to visit and stay up there. On the way up, people had better book in at Geraldton as well, because they are having unbelievable numbers of visitors. They have never seen so many visitors staying on the way up and on the way back. The investment by the McGowan government in infrastructure across the state is an investment in the future, but right now it is creating jobs right around the state. In every single region of Western Australia, jobs are being created as we enhance the attractions for Western Australians to use right now, but also to make it a better attraction in the future.

I look forward to visiting the member for Kimberley very shortly when we launch Shinju Matsuri and seeing some of the sites where some of the investment will be dedicated.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I cannot hear the member. There are too many members talking on that side.

I look forward to also visiting some of the sites that have benefited from part of that \$150 million package. It has been an extraordinary investment. The Kimberley is going to benefit. Cape Leveque Road will soon be opened permanently and as a part of our investment, three Aboriginal communities will benefit from the creation of Camping with Custodian sites, an all-day product from Broome, enhancing the attraction of Broome and the wider Kimberley, but also providing an opportunity for employment for Aboriginal on country.