

HIGHWAY TO HELL

Statement by Member for Bicton

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [12.58 pm]: On Sunday, 1 March, Canning Highway became the world's longest stage for the historic *Highway to Hell* concert. Over 150 000 people lined the 10 kilometres of Canning Highway closed down to host the final event of the 2020 Perth Festival, a huge community gathering to commemorate 40 years since the death of Fremantle-raised AC/DC lead singer Bon Scott. The valley zone from Stock Road, Palmyra, to Petra Street, Bicton, had a special feel, as this was the stomping ground for a young Bon. Right in the heart of the Bicton electorate, it absolutely rocked out to the ACADACA vibe. I say thank you from the constituents of Bicton to Perth Festival Director Iain Grandage, organisers, volunteers and the McGowan government for this once-in-a-generation community event. I would also like to highlight the significant positive financial benefits of the event on the businesses and organisations along the Bicton section of Canning Highway. One of these is the Bicton–Palmyra RSL sub-branch. Situated opposite the Leopold Hotel, the sub-branch is a historic but modern, inclusive and family-friendly place that threw open its doors to welcome the *Highway to Hell* crowds. In that one day of bar trade they took 12 times what they usually do on their normal best day of trade. When I visited that day, customers were 10 deep at the bar. The president, Kevin Hastie, told me this much-needed boost to their working fund means they can now plan ahead with confidence. On behalf of the president, I thank the committee, the awesome volunteers who pitched in to help and the visitors to the Bicton–Palmyra sub-branch who were typical of all those who came to *Highway to Hell*: respectful and patient and just happy to be part of this really special event.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm