

EVENT TOURISM

**1301. Mr F.M. LOGAN to the Minister for Tourism:**

I understand that event tourism in Western Australia has boosted the state economy this year by at least \$67 million, highlighting the Government's achievement of its election commitment to actively pursue more events for WA. Can the minister tell the House what efforts the Government has made to secure future events to continue to bring such economic benefits to WA?

**Mr R.C. KUCERA replied:**

Before I answer the specific question from the member for Cockburn, I thank him for his active involvement - Opposition members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I know that the left-hand side of the House thought that was quite funny. I fail to see what was funny about it. I ask the House to allow the minister to answer the question.

Mr R.C. KUCERA: I was very pleased yesterday to meet the owners of the new *True North* ship that is being constructed at Cockburn. That will be a \$13 million injection into the Kimberley. Again, I thank the member for Kimberley for her involvement with the tourism industry in that area.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.C. KUCERA: If the other side of the House adopted the kind of enthusiasm that is being displayed for tourism in this State, perhaps it would be a little more serious about the jobs tourism will create for the young people of this State.

Several weeks ago I announced that Fremantle was the preferred home port for the Clipper 2005 Round the World Yacht Race. I am delighted to announce today that we have won the right to play host port to another prestigious international yacht race, the 5-Oceans solo yacht race. That race is now the world's prestigious single-handed race and will put Fremantle back on the map. Over the next two years, the State will invest \$1.6 million for an estimated return in direct spending of \$3.3 million. The yacht races have an enormous international following and are expected to bring a large number of visitors, media, crews, etc to this State. As the yachts proceed around the world, Fremantle will once again be put back on the map as the leading port in this area. The sailing community is very excited about this matter. I met yesterday with the Fremantle Chamber of Commerce and it is equally excited. The other side of the House displays its hilarity; however, these types of events do only one thing, and that is create jobs and a future for young Western Australians.