

**MUSEUM OF THE GOLDFIELDS — “NUGGET” THE BEAR**

*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts)** [9.06 am]: I rise to inform the house of a significant event that occurred as part of Western Australia Day celebrations on 4 June 2018. Museum of the Goldfields successfully launched a teddy bear called Nugget 37 kilometres into the earth’s stratosphere. I understand that Nugget, equipped with a camera and GPS, made the ascent aboard a high-altitude balloon. Strong high-altitude winds blew Nugget about 300 kilometres from Kalgoorlie and the teddy bear landed in rough terrain. Volunteers from the Eastern Goldfields 4WD Club set off to recover the teddy bear. The GPS’s last ping was used to determine the search area and a drone confirmed Nugget’s location. After some skilful off-road driving, Nugget, in astonishingly good condition, was retrieved and returned to the museum. I understand the video camera captured spectacular footage—in fact, a “bear’s-eye view” of the goldfields, including vision of Nugget floating above the curvature of the earth.

The aim of Nugget’s sky-high mission was to inspire people to explore their world, promote science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning in regional communities, and advance our knowledge of the goldfields. The data and footage collected by Nugget will form the basis of future educational programs and resources at the Western Australian Museum. The McGowan government is committed to promoting and enhancing STEM education in Western Australia through a range of initiatives. This includes \$17 million for science programs in up to 200 public primary schools, including resources to create science labs and making coding part of the school curriculum. Earlier this month, the McGowan government also announced more than \$3.3 million in new funding to kickstart WA’s STEM skills strategy, and drive WA’s future. Nugget will capture the attention of people of all ages and help to stimulate greater interest in STEM programs. This experiment supports the Western Australian Museum’s role to inspire people to explore the world around them and share our identity, culture and sense of place.

I thank the local community in the goldfields, MacTrack, the Eastern Goldfields 4WD Club, Redcat Media and Ikka Steel for their support of this out-of-the-ordinary project. The goldfields museum now has an exceptional adventure that can be shared with its visitors.

I table for the house’s interest a picture of Nugget 37 kilometres above the earth!

[See paper 1454.]

**The SPEAKER:** How much can the chamber bear?