

CREATIVE ARTS — GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

669. Mr S.A. MILLMAN to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's massive investment in the creative industry, which has resulted in a surge in local productions such as the ABC television series *The Heights*. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's investment is creating jobs for Western Australians and supporting those workers in the creative industries?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I can, and I thank the member for Mount Lawley for the question. I was very pleased to be in Mt Lawley with the members of cabinet only last week and experiencing the wonderful community that the member represents. I had a meeting there with a number of people involved in the creative industries who live and work in Mt Lawley, which is tremendous. As members would be aware, the McGowan government is absolutely committed to making sure that as part of a diversified economy, creative industries will continue to grow and play a key part in creating jobs and supporting job development, innovation and technology. As we know, the creative arts is very much a part of creative industries that are spread across a range of areas and is growing in its influence and importance. As the member noted, we have seen a surge in the screen industry in Western Australia through documentaries and feature, animation and virtual reality films. They are all very important components of the creative industries that are now attracting back many workers in the creative industries who had gone across to the eastern seaboard. One such drama series is *The Heights*. I was very pleased to visit the ABC studios yesterday to see the filming of the second series, which will involve and include a cast and crew made up of over 85 per cent Western Australians. It includes outstanding Western Australian talent across performance, technical and training staff. *The Heights* is a series that will continue to promote Perth and Western Australia and is filmed in and around the —

Mr R.R. Whitby: Minister, was there a cameo for you?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I did ask but I was rejected—a little bit like the member for Carine who was rejected as shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts and dispatched to somewhere else, but we will not go into that.

We are investing heavily in the creative industries. We are building a world-class \$400 million new museum for Western Australia. We are reactivating the rooftop of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, which was an election commitment. The visual arts is receiving an \$8 million regional exhibitions boost, which will see more of the state collection shared in regional Western Australia. The McGowan Labor government has committed over the next four years to a \$20 million creative regions program across a range of areas, including assistance in the activation of Indigenous artists in rural and remote regions in Western Australia. Our first virtual reality festival, which is known as XR:WA, premiered in July as part of the Revelation Perth International Film Festival. That is another example of investing in emerging, groundbreaking technology with a large number of emerging practitioners in the VR and immersive industries. Of course, we are providing ongoing support to Screenwest and the film industry across Western Australia through Lotterywest and government investment. Later this week the CinefestOZ film Festival starts in Busselton in the south west where members can see *His for Happiness*, which was filmed in Albany. It is a magnificent film and features young talent from Western Australia. I urge members and people to see those films and experience that because —

Mr P.A. Katsambanis interjected.

The SPEAKER: Are you exhausted yet, minister, because the rest of us are!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am very concerned about the constipated member for Hillarys over there. He seems to want to interrupt me. We are investing heavily in the creative industries. We believe in it as a viable industry for the future. It employs a lot of people, many of whom are young people. It is an exciting area to be in and Western Australia is putting itself forward to share its creative talent with the rest of the world. I am very proud of that and we are committing to it as an industry going forward.