

PICABAR

821. Mr A. KRSTICEVIC to the Minister for Local Government:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister admit that he got it wrong and immediately commit to providing Picabar with the first option on a 10-year lease?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Again, negotiations are currently underway. The member needs to be very mindful that any negotiations with regard to a state-owned entity have legal obligations, and we need to make sure that those are transparent. Is the member actually proposing an alternative means? The fact of the matter is this —

Mr A. Krsticevic: They've got a lease agreement with a 10-year option in there.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I have warned you twice. I call you to order for the first time.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We are actually now addressing this and other future tenancies that will come onstream with the delivery of the new museum, and we will make sure that they are done in a transparent and effective way. We acknowledge the wonderful work of the current tenants—no argument—and Perth Theatre Trust is negotiating with them with regard to the upcoming summer period. It is very important that that continues to be activated, and it will, and I am confident that we can negotiate with the tenant to achieve that. Then, of course, there are the broader issues around ongoing activation, as we deliver the new museum project and an enhanced Art Gallery, and, of course, a much more enhanced cultural precinct. I remind the member that these unsatisfactory tenancy arrangements date back to 2012. Nothing was done.

Mr A. Krsticevic: That was PICA.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: We have taken action and we have made sure that we have surety.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: You are again wrong. They have not been thrown out and we are negotiating with them as to a satisfactory outcome.