

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES — ECONOMIC GROWTH

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.04 am]: I would like to report to Parliament on my recent visit to Melbourne and to reflect on the importance of the creative industries to growing the Western Australian economy. While in Melbourne for this event, I took the opportunity to meet with a range of people relating to my portfolios, and obtained briefings on a number of related issues and areas of interest. I met with the Victorian Minister for Creative Industries, Hon Martin Foley, who briefed me on Victoria's \$57 million creative industries strategy, and I received a briefing on Victoria's directions for local government. I visited Abbotsford Convent, which is an amazing example of how heritage infrastructure can be effectively activated. I visited the Melbourne Museum and saw firsthand the important role modern museums play in attracting tourists, telling our stories, educating students and unlocking the imaginations of our very young. I toured the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, Australia's national museum of film, television, video games, digital culture and art. The museum not only has an amazing moving image collection, but also delivers an extensive calendar of talks, performances, workshops and school holiday programs. I also paid a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria. One thing became clear to me during my visit: Western Australia is clearly punching above its weight in many areas relevant to my portfolio.

On the Saturday night, it was my privilege to attend the world premiere of the Western Australian film *Three Summers*, the centrepiece gala event for the Melbourne International Film Festival. As the centrepiece event, the premiere was a red-carpet celebration of local filmmaking, involving the director, cast and crew. *Three Summers* was shot almost entirely at Pinjarra's historic Fairbridge Village, with 100 cast and crew on the set. The film includes Australian screen greats Magda Szubanski, Michael Caton, Deborah Mailman and John Waters, and international actor Robert Sheehan. The writer-director of the project is adopted Western Australian Ben Elton. The film was produced by Michael Wrenn and Western Australia's Sue Taylor and is set around the fictitious music festival "Westival" over the course of three summers. The film speaks to our commonality whilst maintaining a subtle politic storyline on inclusiveness and assimilation in contemporary Australia. *Three Summers* received WA government funding through Screenwest production investment funding of \$560 000, and \$350 000 from the Western Australian regional film fund, a royalties for regions program. It will have its Western Australian premiere at CinéfestOZ on 23 August.

Projects like this not only showcase our country's talent and skills, but also tell our story and display our culture to the rest of the world. At the same time, they provide employment and economic development opportunities for our state. The work of Screenwest and the achievements of the Western Australian film industry is an important contributor to driving growth in the post-boom Western Australian economy. I place on record my appreciation for the work of Screenwest, and I wish all those involved with the production and distribution of *Three Summers* my best wishes for its success. I urge all members to attend and watch *Three Summers* if they have the opportunity.