

PERTH FESTIVAL AND FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL — ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORTS

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.03 pm]: I would like to inform the house of the release of the economic impact reports for Western Australia's two —

The SPEAKER: Members! If you want to have a meeting, take it outside.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I would like to inform the house of the release of the economic impact reports for Western Australia's two premier arts festivals, highlighting the contribution they make to not only our rich cultural and social lives, but also the Western Australian economy. The impact reports released this week by the Perth Festival and the Fringe World Festival show that over the combined 2018 summer festival season, there were over 1.3 million paid and free attendances to over 1 000 events in Perth and regional Western Australian centres. The combined box office income for the two festivals was estimated at over \$14 million, with each festival experiencing significant audience and box office growth over recent years. With the average ticket price for both festivals under \$30, this makes them accessible for both local and visiting audiences.

The combined economic impact of these cultural festivals goes beyond the box office income and includes spending in related areas such as hospitality and tourism, resulting in a reported flow-on impact from both festivals of over \$125 million to the Western Australian economy, helping to create jobs and increase economic diversification, and attracting visitors to Western Australia. The festivals are also critical to the development of the local creative sector, with a reported \$16.8 million in payments to Western Australian artists, suppliers and related workers, providing a vital economic boost to the creative sector. Of course, the benefits of these major cultural festivals go beyond their pure economic impact. Both the Perth Festival and the Fringe World Festival have become much-loved and cherished events in the Western Australian cultural calendar, with survey responses from audiences once again highlighting their important role in creating a vibrant, safe, more connected and socially richer community. These important cultural festivals deliver significant benefits for Western Australians and visitors, and contribute to the cultural, social and economic richness of the state.

I would like to congratulate both festivals for their successful 2018 seasons, and wish future festivals continued success for all Western Australians to enjoy.