

PERTH FESTIVAL 2019

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.05 pm]: I would like to inform the house of the commencement last Friday of the 2019 Perth Festival. Along with the currently running Fringe World Festival, it promises to provide a significant boost to the economy over the festival period and contribute to our rich cultural and social life.

A highlight of the first weekend of the 2019 Perth Festival was the free opening event *Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak*, which highlighted Perth's iconic Kings Park. The event was supported by Tourism WA, Kings Park and Botanic Garden and its volunteers. Nearly 200 000 people were estimated to have experienced the event celebrating our unique Noongar culture, its connection to our natural environment and the importance of protecting it into the future.

The Perth Festival season also brings great economic benefits to the state. In 2018, the festival reported a direct economic impact of \$18.6 million, with a total economic impact of \$25.9 million. With an attendance of 460 659 people, the reported box office for the festival in 2018 was \$4.3 million. In addition to tickets, festival patrons spent an average of \$58 per person at the venues, providing a gross patron expenditure of \$10.1 million. This expenditure was estimated to have resulted in 570 full-time jobs being created in the creative, hospitality and associated industries.

Perth Festival is a key attraction for tourists looking for special experiences and is an important cultural tourism attractor for the state, building our reputation as a destination in our region, where more than 60 per cent of the state's population lives. A key driver of our creative economy, the festival promotes local innovation and cultural exchange with the world, to boost skills, attract investment and provide jobs.

The state government has been a principal partner of the festival for 26 years, proudly supporting the festival across a broad range of departments and agencies. Principal partner Lotterywest has supported Perth Festival since 1990 and has provided more than \$107 million over this period, including a grant for \$7 million to support the 2019 festival. The support from the state government and other partners ensures that the Perth Festival continues to build Western Australia's profile as a stimulating place for visitors and residents alike. I would like to wish the Perth Festival a very successful 2019 season, and one for all Western Australians to enjoy.