

CINÉFESTOZ FILM FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [12.05 pm]: Last weekend I had the honour of attending the twelfth CinéfestOZ Film Festival, which included events in Busselton and Bunbury. Included in this year's festival were five powerful Western Australian feature films, two WA documentaries and two immersive projects including WA feature documentary *Whale Super Highway*, which was captured in the waters of Geographe Bay in WA's south west region. *Whale Super Highway* made its world premiere in Australia's first mobile 180-degree dome cinema.

I would like to mention this year's Western Australian feature films and documentaries featured at CinéfestOZ. I encourage everyone to see these movies with their families and friends; everyone will be amazed at the talent we have here in the west. The features include *The Naked Wanderer*, *Go!*, *Storm in a Teacup*, *Below*, *Slam*, *Wild Butterfly*, *H is for Happiness* and *Whale Super Highway*. The festival's \$100 000 film prize is Australia's largest film prize and had two Western Australian films in the competition—*Go!* and *H is for Happiness*—with *H is for Happiness* winning the prize. *H is for Happiness* was set and filmed in the colourful Western Australian coastal town of Albany. *H is for Happiness* is a classic feel-good film for all ages that will make people laugh, cry, and cheer with delight. *H is for Happiness* is the second WA film to take out the prize, with *Paper Planes* winning in 2014.

Our Western Australian films are playing on a national and international stage and are not only sharing WA stories and our wonderful landscapes with the world, but also being coveted and celebrated, reaching new heights for the Western Australian industry. These films include *Dirt Music*, *Red Dog*, *Hounds of Love* and *Judas Collar*. Television series include *Mystery Road*, season one; *The Heights*, which is filmed in our very own WA ABC studios, has had great success for its first season and has started shooting season two employing over 100 WA crew; and *Aussie Gold Hunters*, which is now in its fourth season and is Discovery Channel's number one hit local production. This success comes down to the Western Australian government increasing its investment in film production in WA. The government provides continued support for our screen industry through Screenwest, with investment from royalties for regions, the regional development commissions and Lotterywest. Our \$16 million Western Australian regional film fund has delivered great outcomes by not only putting our stunning locations on the map for a wide variety of national and international audiences, but also creating a greater economic return to the regions in which the films have been shot. With the school holidays approaching, I ask all members to take their family and friends to the movies and see a Western Australian film, because we here in Western Australia make great cinema!