

FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL AND PERTH FESTIVAL

301. Mr J.N. CAREY to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

My question is to the minister for culture and dramatic arts—I mean arts! I refer to the state government's commitment to supporting our creative industries and creating jobs in WA's culture and arts sector. Can the minister outline to the house how the government's support for both the Perth Festival and Fringe World Festival has delivered social and economic benefits to the people of Perth and Western Australia?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

Before I answer this very good question, can I acknowledge on behalf of the member for Bassendean the members of the Lockridge Primary School P&C, who are in the public gallery today. Hello there; it is wonderful to have you here!

I thank the member for Perth for his very important question. We have just had festival season. Some of us have binged on Fringe and we have done lots of things to acknowledge that the festival season is again a very successful part of our culture and arts life here in Perth. It has highlighted the great cultural and creative industry work in Western Australia. The figures have come in for Fringe World Festival and have again broken records. Over 400 000 people attended ticketed events, with \$11.5 million in box office sales. At the Perth Festival, 450 000-plus people attended more than 300 free and ticketed events. A big highlight for those who went and saw it, as members would be aware, was the Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak experience, with 230 000 people going to Kings Park over a three-night period to attend the experience, which highlighted the tremendously rich Noongar story and connection to land. We have also had magnificent responses to surveys from audiences.

Both the Perth Festival and the Fringe World Festival are very, very important parts of our cultural calendar, but I have to report that there were some flops. The Leader of the Opposition had his magic trick show in which he made \$40 billion disappear! There was not a great audience reaction. He was canned there. Hon Nick Goiran, from the other place, was tucked into a little spiegelent doing a monologue that went on for the whole period of the festival! It got poor reviews, poor audiences and poor responses. I do not think he will be asked back again, poor old Hon Nick Goiran! I do not think he will be there. I know the member for Scarborough has been dying to reprise her Daft Punk's *One More Time* performance! I know she has, and I am on her side. I have been putting it to the new festival director that that could be a big hit down there at Elizabeth Quay in the Noodle Palace. I am on her side. Get rehearsing! The member for Cottesloe could do his Skyhooks *Livin' in the 70's* performance.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: He has got a chance. I love the deadpan face over there!

The SPEAKER: Minister! Through the Chair, and get to the answer.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Of course! Let us be serious now. The festival events are great; they are excellent. The Perth Festival brings world-class performances to Perth. The Fringe World Festival allows a whole range of our creatives to showcase their talent. Congratulations to all of the organisers involved in those key festival events. They will continue to demonstrate and deliver high-quality culture and arts entertainment. Let us hope that we see some interesting acts in the 2020 season.