

FLY BY NIGHT MUSICIANS CLUB, FREMANTLE

522. Ms S.F. McGURK to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

Before I ask my question, I will take the opportunity to wish the member for Girrawheen all the best for today; I understand that it is her birthday today.

Several members interjected.

Ms S.F. McGURK: Is that not sweet!

The minister would be aware that the future of the successful and innovative Fly by Night Musicians Club has been put at risk by a threat to end its tenure at the state-owned drill hall in Fremantle. What is the government doing to ensure that this popular independent arts venue does not go under, as have other longstanding arts organisations under this government, such as Kulcha and Deckchair Theatre?

Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:

I agree the Fly by Night Club is an important organisation, having been based in Fremantle for quite some time. It uses the former Artillery Drill Hall for its activities and that is owned by the National Trust; so it is the National Trust that is actually seeking expressions of interest as to —

Mrs M.H. Roberts: Managed by the National Trust and owned by the government!

The SPEAKER: Member for Midland!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: Yes, okay, managed by the National Trust. At the moment it is primarily an issue between the National Trust and the Fly by Night Musicians Club. In relation to the role of the Department of Culture and the Arts, I have requested that the situation be monitored and that some advice be provided, should that be necessary, but we need to see the outcome of the process the National Trust is undertaking at the moment. I do not think it should be seen as a foregone conclusion that there necessarily will be any changes to the venue provided for the Fly by Night Musicians Club. But in the event that the National Trust has some proposal that, for some reason, is substantially better than what it currently has in place, we would need to work with the Fly by Night Musicians Club to assist in identifying an appropriate venue.

Of course, the Fly by Night Club is one of many non-government organisations in the state. Some assistance is provided through DCA, but we do not have direct responsibility as a government, of course. However, we always seek to assist where we can and that will continue to be the case in this situation.