

CULTURE AND THE ARTS — FILMMAKING

784. Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

Can the minister outline to the house how the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting Western Australia's creative industries is driving a filmmaking boom across the state, and what this has meant for jobs, particularly for those in regional WA?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for her question and acknowledge that she would be well aware of the great Western Australian film made in her electorate, at Fairbridge, a year or so ago—*Three Rivers*. It was very successful. It builds on a number of very successful films either currently being filmed, in pre-production or in post-production. It is a great success story for the creative industries—for creating jobs, particularly in regional Western Australia; for diversifying the economy of Western Australia; and for making sure that we sell this state to the rest of Australia and to the world through the screen industry. I am very pleased to say that the activities and support of ScreenWest now sees Western Australia leading Australia in the volume of film production. This is a great news story for Western Australia. Production of film in Australia, in terms of volume of production, is being led by Western Australia.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I heard about the film that is, hopefully, to be made about the WA Liberal Party. It is a disaster film, of course. However, lack of funding will see that film not be made, despite a cavalcade of fading matinee idols on the other side to play the parts.

The Tim Winton film, *Breath*, which was filmed in Denmark, was very successful, showcasing the beauty of Denmark. *Mystery Road*, which has screened on the ABC and has now been picked up by BBC4, was filmed in the electorate of the member for Kimberley, in Wyndham and the east Kimberley. *Rams* is currently being filmed in Mt Barker and the great southern. *Judas Collar* is being filmed in Sandstone, Mt Magnet and Cue, in the midwest. Another very lucrative production, a 30-part series being filmed in the ABC studios, called *Heights*, is a great success story. *Heights* employs a crew of 152, including 41 interns from local TAFEs and universities, and the great thing is that 79 of the 84 speaking roles will be filled by Western Australian talent. We are seeing a wonderful story unfolding in the screen industry in Western Australia, underpinning the importance of the creative industries.

Mr D.T. Redman interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is the member's problem? Is he looking for a starring role? Perhaps "The Rats of Tobruk", with Chips Rafferty over there. There he is—good on you, Chips!

Mrs L.M. Harvey interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Members opposite are always attacking. This is a great story that we should be celebrating, but they do not like it—they hate it! It is a disaster over there; it is a horror picture! It is awful! It is terrible! Shortly, all the birds from Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds* will start descending. Those opposite hate this success story. Why does the Liberal Party hate Western Australia so much? Why, why, why? Why do they hate the state so much? It is a great story for the creative industries. Let us celebrate together, so that the people in regional Western Australia and in Perth can sell the state to the nation. Join the bandwagon. Join us in celebrating, and stop being stick-in-the-muds. Chips, stop being a stick-in-the-mud! Get on board. Join us. It is a great story for Western Australia.