

CULTURE AND THE ARTS — CONTEMPORARY MUSIC INDUSTRY

**346. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting WA's thriving contemporary music industry that already pumps one billion dollars a year into the state's economy. Can the minister outline to the house how the government is investing in this job-creating industry and supporting the music artists who drive it?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

I would be very pleased and proud to do that, member for Maylands. I thank her for her contribution and support of contemporary music in Western Australia. It is an industry that we know is thriving throughout the community. Last night we had the Western Australian Music Industry awards. I could not go; I was feeling a little poorly, so I looked around at the gathering, and chose the Maynard G. Krebs of the Parliament, the Treasurer, because he has now been anointed as the beatnik with his salad haircut. I have only the comb-over to offer. He had a much better and more appropriate hairstyle on offer. Anyway, he went to the awards last night, and I thank him for that. I acknowledge the WA Music Industry award of song of the year to Stella Donnelly of the grand prize for her song *Boys Will Be Boys*, and the 15 winners in the various individual categories.

Two weeks ago, the Premier and I went to the Badlands Bar in East Perth. I would not say that we were out of place, but let us just say that we are probably more of the vintage of Pinocchio's and the Red Parrot. We launched the contemporary music fund, which is a \$3 million commitment by the McGowan government to the contemporary music industry. This is a significant commitment for those tremendous Western Australian artists and creatives who are involved in the music industry in Western Australia. We have a very proud history of contribution to the music industry worldwide, but this fund is specifically focused on supporting emerging existing artists in Western Australia to make their journey to the world stage. We have a great history of that, as I have said. This \$3 million will focus on building, nurturing and encouraging the contemporary music industry in Western Australia. We will be supporting those artists and artisans in the music industry to continue to do their craft and do it well. It is a significant investment by a government in the culture and arts sector in the specific genre of the music industry. It underpins this government's commitment to investing in the creative industries in Western Australia, because we know that when we are seeking to broaden the economy of Western Australia, the creative industries remain one of those key elements of growth in our modern economy.

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** We will not talk about you; you are an oil painting.

The fact of the matter is that this is a significant investment, and therefore artists from all around Western Australia, including regional Western Australia, will be able to access this significant fund and continue to create great modern contemporary music for the world. It is something that we should be very proud of.