

TOURISM — WWE ELIMINATION CHAMBER

**94. Mr M.J. FOLKARD to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's efforts to boost tourism by securing major events in Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update on the preparations to host the WWE Elimination Chamber this Saturday night at Optus Stadium; and, is "The Rock" coming?
- (2) What does this major event mean to local jobs and businesses?
- (3) Can the minister advise whether she is aware of any other major showdowns that will take place in the coming months?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. It is a big time in WA, a very big time, with of course Western Australia hosting the WWE Elimination Chamber on Saturday. Let us hope that that chamber is a bit more exciting than this chamber. It will not take much! Of course, this is a major win for WA. WWE fever is sweeping the city. The superstore just opened in Forrest Chase, and I have seen lines of people waiting to purchase from that superstore. Of course, the stars are here, including Logan Paul. If anyone has teenage children, they know who that means—the Prime drink we have all chased to try to buy for our children; we have all experienced it. I had the opportunity to meet Rhea Ripley when she came over. It is a very good line up with Nia Jax, Tiffany Stratton, Austin Theory, Finn Balor, Becky Lynch and, of course, heavyweight champion Seth Rollins all on the ground. It is the first time we have had a WWE premium live event in WA. As I said, thousands are flocking to WA. WWE chief content officer and 14-time world champion Triple H is also here, and I avail members of the fact that we have approximately 40 000 people coming to the event on Saturday. Importantly, 14 000 tickets have been purchased by interstate and overseas ticket holders, which is massive. That again shows that having these unique events brings people from interstate and overseas.

As I said, this is a unique opportunity for Western Australians who love their wrestling. I know there are a number of hidden wrestling lovers in this place—member for Victoria Park—who are maybe not so hidden now. We have exposed them many times. We are getting amazing feedback from the community; people love wrestling. They love the events and the opportunity to showcase Western Australia. As I said, it is not just visitors from interstate and overseas, it is also the fact that this is a global brand that will be streamed into homes around the world. It is their social media and the amount of community work they will be doing, including meeting children and the community. They are a very professional crew and we look forward to hosting them this weekend.

As I said, I cannot provide any answer on "The Rock", sorry, member. I, too, have watched his video, but I have no further information other than what is out there publicly. With or without "The Rock", this will be an incredible event for Western Australia that showcases Western Australia to the rest of the world as part of our always-on event strategy, making sure we give more and more people a reason to visit WA. Together with dedicated new tourism infrastructure and more flights, it is all about making sure we create jobs for Western Australians and enhance our tourism industry.