

TOURISM — MAJOR EVENTS

834. Mr S.N. AUBREY to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's efforts to boost tourism through its always-on events strategy for Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house what the delivery of the Matildas' Olympic qualifiers here in Perth has meant for Western Australian businesses?
- (2) Can the minister inform the house how the success of this football event has inspired other new contests in Western Australia?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Of course, the Matildas' Olympic qualifier matches played in Western Australia were a huge success. Almost 100 000 fans were at the three games. Of course, on Sunday, 29 October, the match made history as the biggest football crowd ever at Optus Stadium with almost 60 000 fans in attendance. Thousands of out-of-state visitors were estimated to travel to these games. Additionally, millions of viewers tuned in to Network Ten and Paramount in what was the highest ever rating Matildas broadcast outside of the World Cup. It was a massive, massive three games.

Of course, Western Australia was promoted as a tourism destination. Not only did it promote Western Australia to the rest of the nation and the rest of the world, but it created enthusiasm and excitement from the Western Australian public. We saw hundreds and thousands of young Western Australians lining up wanting the autograph, jumper or boots. It created absolute hysteria amongst young people in Western Australia. They were strong contests, and everyone can remember the hat-trick scored by Sam Kerr in that game against the Philippines.

The question alluded to what other contests it has inspired. We should look no further than the opposition to see some of the contests that have been inspired more recently. We today saw the contest between the Leader of the Liberal Party and the member for Cottesloe on who actually develops policy on their side. The member for Cottesloe is opposing the planning reform bills, and the Leader of the Liberal Party is saying that they will support the planning reform bills. Who actually makes the decision about these types of policies?

We have seen a movement between the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party. We now see a battle over the Facebook site of the current member for North West Central. Members might want to turn to exhibit A. Yesterday, the movement began to steal the member for North West Central's Facebook site. The National Party took the Facebook site of the member for North West Central. Yesterday, the movement began. It took away the photo of the member for North West Central and replaced it with Nationals; of course, it still had the member for Central Wheatbelt and the member for North West Central, and it was still authorised yesterday by the member for North West Central.

Today, members, it has all changed. It says, "Think local. Think National", and there is no mention of the member for North West Central. It is now authorised by the Nationals WA—stealing the Facebook site. Importantly, they lost 16 members in that transition as 16 likes or followers disappeared.

Of course, tomorrow will be the biggest contest of them all between the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party about who should be Leader of the Opposition.

Mr P. Papalia: The Ballon d'Or of the opposition!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I was saying that the current 3-all approach in the opposition is a bit like a football game. At full-time, the score is 3-all and the question is: How do they sort it out? Do they go into extra time? Do they go to a golden goal or do they have a penalty shootout?

Members, we are looking forward to seeing what happens over coming weeks. We want them to sort it out once and for all because the battle between the Liberal Party and the National Party continues. We have a battle not only between the Liberal Party and the National Party, but also within the Liberal Party, too.