

TOURISM — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

145. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's always-on event strategy, which is helping to drive WA tourism.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the government's success in hosting unique, exclusive events, such as the WWE Elimination Chamber and the upcoming Italian football blockbuster in May?
- (2) Can the minister outline what these events mean for visitors to Western Australia, local jobs and businesses?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. Of course, as part of our diversification of the economy by growing other sectors across the economy, tourism is a key area that we are focusing on, whether it be tourism infrastructure, direct flights or the event strategy. The event strategy is very much aimed at making sure we give people a reason to come to WA and exposing Western Australia to the rest of the world, and making sure that they come back and they tell their families and friends. Of course, we have had some incredible success over the past few years, whether it be Coldplay, the Matildas or the range —

Mr R.S. Love: Why don't you tell us how much it costs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is in the budget, member.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! Leader of the Opposition, you have not asked this question; please do not interject.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The Leader of the Opposition is the angriest, saddest man in WA. This is the elimination chamber between the National Party and the Liberal Party, members.

Ms J.J. Shaw: Let's get ready to rumble!

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: An opposition rumble!

Look at the six of them. They cannot even agree on how to vote on a couple of pieces of legislation. We saw it today. There was complete division and chaos. They sit there, having a go at us, and they cannot even talk to each other. They cannot even sit together each day and develop a strategy; it is pathetic. They come in here and have a go at us fuelling the economy around the state. All the things we are doing and they—there are six of you, for goodness sake—cannot even sit together in a room and agree on a strategy.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, points of order are held in silence.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I seek your ruling on the relevance of this answer, which was about tourism —

Ms S.E. Winton: You interjected!

Mr R.S. LOVE: — and has turned into, yet again, an attack on members of the opposition.

The SPEAKER: Minister! It is a rather interesting interjection to be complaining about someone else interjecting and saying they have interjected. You have just interjected, and I will ask you not to do it again for the rest of question time. I am not upholding the point of order on that, but I ask the minister to return to the substance of the question.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Thank you. We are talking about wrestling, and we know what these guys are doing everyday: wrestling on who should be asking the questions, what the questions should be and how to vote, and then half of them run away when there is a vote to be had or hide in the corridor behind the chamber. I have never seen that before. There are six of them, and they cannot even sit in a room and agree on a question time strategy.

Anyway. In the meantime, we are growing the economy, creating jobs and delivering services around the state. That is what we are doing in relation to the tourism industry, of course. It has been recognised. The only person who seems to be upset about these events is the Leader of the Opposition. We get feedback because of the range of events we have. Whether they are into the Ultimate Fighting Championship, the wrestling, Coldplay or the arts, with our new homegrown EverNow event as well, there is a whole range of homegrown events and also blockbuster events. It is with great pride that we are bringing two Serie A Italian teams to Perth. It will be the first time that Rome

has been here since 1966, and the first time AC Milan has been here since 1980. We have not had Italian teams here since 1996.

This is about getting more visitors into WA. More recently, just on the weekend, the Tourism Council WA issued an analysis on the economic output of the WWE Elimination Chamber, estimating that \$35 million was injected into the WA economy, with more than 329 full-time jobs. This is about growing WA as a destination. The feedback I get is on not only the visitation that we have, but also the social media and the fact that Perth is then displayed around the world. We saw that in particular with WWE's incredible coverage and demonstration of WA as a place to visit. Members opposite, honestly, I have never seen anything like it. Six of them cannot agree on anything, even what party they should be a member of. They come in here being negative about the state, and they cannot even agree which side of that little aisle they should be sitting on or what their strategy should be.