

MAJOR EVENTS — JOBS

**186. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to diversify the Western Australian economy. Can the Premier outline to the house how attracting exclusive major events to Western Australia provides a significant boost to WA small businesses and tourism operators, and advise the house how these events create jobs for Western Australians?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Riverton for the question.

There has been an incredible number of events going on in Western Australia in recent weeks. Today we mark the transition from summer to winter sport, although it still feels like summer to me. We have WA taking on Victoria in the Sheffield Shield final at the WACA today. We have our two AFL teams playing here this weekend. We had Ed Sheeran and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. We had that other guy I went to—Harry Styles. We had Rod Stewart, Cyndi Lauper, Pat Malone—what was his name?

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Post Malone! We had Paul Kelly, Post Malone and Björk. Pat Malone might have been there, too! More than 650 000 people have attended these events at Optus Stadium.

This morning, Minister Templeman and Minister Cook confirmed English Premier League giants Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United —

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Here it is—Templeman!

Several members interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Tottenham and West Ham will play at Optus Stadium on 18 July, which is just terrific news. That will bring people from Britain to watch that game. Apparently, there is a strong feud between Tottenham and West Ham—a North London versus East London feud. Hopefully, some of those fans will come here to witness that. We have the FIFA Women's World Cup, with Perth hosting five matches between 22 July and 3 August at the Perth Rectangular Stadium. It will be a great winter of round ball football. It is an exciting thing for Western Australia to have. It will be broadcast all over the world and have all the social media reach. As I said before, it may exceed the UFC's incredible social media reach and focus a lot of attention on Western Australia. There will be lots of international and interstate visitors coming in who will fill our bars, hotels and restaurants, and provide a lot of excitement. Obviously the spin-offs for the state's economy are very strong.

Members might recall that there were people out there a year or so ago, or even less, saying that Western Australia would never get back all these people. We kept COVID out. We saved the state's economy. We saved thousands of lives. Some people were critics. As I recall, the Liberal Party was a critic of that and said people would not come back. Look at these events! There has never ever been a period of such exciting events as what is going on now right here in Western Australia.