

ORD VALLEY MUSTER

62. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the challenges faced by regional tour operators as a result of the indefinite delay in the border reopening.

- (1) Is the minister aware that the Ord Valley Muster may have to be cancelled as a result of concerns about its viability in 2022?
- (2) If yes to (1), can the minister confirm the status of the Ord Valley Muster for 2022?
- (3) Has the minister's department prepared any modelling on the impact of the cancellation of major tourism events in our regional towns?
- (4) What will the minister be doing to ensure that vital tourism events, such as the Ord Valley Muster, can continue in 2022?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question, and I provide the answer on behalf of the minister representing the Minister for Tourism.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) The event holder, Ord Valley Events Inc, cancelled the event late on Wednesday, 16 February 2022.
- (3)–(4) Tourism Western Australia has been working with its sponsored events to ensure they proceed as planned where possible or are supported to ensure their ongoing viability into the future. On 10 February 2022, the state government announced a \$77 million safe transition industry support package, which includes a \$10 million extension and expansion of the Getting the Show Back on the Road program through to 30 June 2022. This package is designed to reduce the financial risks associated with running ticketed events in Western Australia during a COVID-19 impacted period and encourage the safe continuation of public ticketed events.