

INDONESIAN TRADE MISSION — PREMIER

**581. Mr P.C. TINLEY to the Premier:**

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Albany, I acknowledge students and staff from the Great Southern Grammar here with us today in the gallery.

I refer to the Premier's upcoming mission to Indonesia, which aims to strengthen economic ties between Western Australia and Indonesia.

- (1) Can the Premier advise the house how this mission will support the diversification of Western Australia's economy and provide a boost to local sectors such as energy, primary industries and international education?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house what Western Australia's relationship with Indonesia means for the state's economy?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question and for his previous and ongoing work on engagement with Asia and its importance as part of our economic future.

I take the opportunity to congratulate the member for Bunbury on his forty-fifth birthday! I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the former member for Mirrabooka, who is in the public gallery today. It is good to see you here.

I have said a lot recently about the fact that Perth is closer to Jakarta than Canberra, and I dare say more Western Australians have been to Indonesia than the nation's capital! Indonesia represents an incredibly important part of our ongoing relationship with Asia, but also our ongoing prosperity in terms of trade, people-to-people and business-to-business relationships, and continuing to grow our influence in the South-East Asian regional economies. Indeed, the importance of Indonesia is underscored by the fact that it will be the world's fifth largest economy by 2030, and our state will and needs to be part of this growth. Last year, Western Australia accounted for 30 per cent of Australia's goods exports to Indonesia. That is \$3.8 billion worth of goods—and it is just the start. As Indonesia is our closest international neighbour, Western Australia must continue to strengthen its connection with Indonesia to unlock new trade and investment partnerships.

To further this objective, I will be leading my first trade mission as Premier to Indonesia. Beginning in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, the mission will involve more than 130 key government and business representatives, including three members of cabinet—Ministers Johnson, Templeman and Jarvis. This is the biggest trade delegation ever taken overseas by a Western Australia government. It is an indication of our commitment to ensuring we continue to engage strongly with Asia and our regional economic neighbours. There are important opportunities for Western Australia and Indonesia if we work together to realise our mutual prosperity.

At the same time, our state can make further inroads into diversifying our economy. Our focus will be on highlighting investment and trade opportunities across energy transition, creative industries, the digital economy, international education, primary industries and tourism. Although this will be my first trade mission as Premier, it will be my third official visit to Indonesia since our border opened, a clear demonstration of the value that Western Australia places on our partnership with our closest neighbour. The mission is yet another platform to promote the state as a recognised and trusted partner.

Recently, I took a similarly large, but slightly smaller, mission to India. Out of that have come some great opportunities including, most notably, Perth-based battery company Thorion Energy, which earned a manufacturing agreement with Hild Energy in Chennai after last year's trade missions. The company's CEO, Brad Appleyard, and COO, Paul Hersey, are a testament to the ingenuity simmering away in Western Australian industry today.

Given the success of previous trade missions, it comes as no surprise that there was a huge demand for delegates to be on this delegation. I very much look forward to taking Western Australia to our South-East Asian community, continuing to make sure that we realise trade and prosperity opportunities for Western Australians and our neighbours and to drive Western Australian jobs by continuing to drive Western Australia's trade.