

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Division 50: Western Australian Tourism Commission, \$55 992 000 -

Mr P.W. Andrews, Chairman.

Mr M. McGowan, Minister for Tourism.

Mr R.J. Muirhead, Chief Executive Officer.

Ms S.M. Withers, Executive Director, Corporate and Business Services.

Ms J.E. Carren, Manager, Executive Services.

Mr P.G. Kealley, Manager, Accounting and Financial Services.

Ms P. Wallace, Policy Adviser, Office of the Minister for Tourism.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I refer to the second dot point of significant issues and trends on page 872. What action is being taken to work with the federal government on funding through the federal tourism white paper, and have any estimates been established for the level of funding that Western Australia may receive?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will invite my adviser, Mr Richard Muirhead, to answer that question.

Mr R.J. Muirhead: The most direct results from that are through the Australian tourism development fund. I do not recall the actual figures, but last year Western Australia received above its share of funding through the ATDF. The current round for this year is open at the moment. Tourism WA is working closely with the eligible bodies to apply for funding through the ATDF.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: What is Tourism WA hoping to achieve? It must have put in a submission of some sort.

Mr R.J. Muirhead: The funding is available only to non-government organisations and local governments. A range of applications go in. We hope to again get at least a reasonable share, or higher than our share in terms of the number of tourism operators in Australia. The outcome is still unknown.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Mr Muirhead is not sure of the funding that Tourism WA received in the past year. He cannot tell us what was achieved in the past year in that area.

Mr M. McGOWAN: My understanding is that we do not have those figures to hand. If the member would like us to do so, we can get him some supplementary information on that.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That would be good.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the minister clarify what supplementary information will be provided?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We will get supplementary information for the member for Hillarys on the assistance that was provided by the Howard government.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes, through the federal government tourism white paper, and also any estimates that have been established for the level of funding that Western Australia may receive in the next year.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, that is fine.

The CHAIRMAN: Would members clarify that for me again? What will the minister provide by way of supplementary information?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister has agreed to provide information on the funding that the government has received for the present year through the federal tourism white paper. In addition, he will provide information on whether any estimates have been established for the level of funding that Western Australia may receive in the next year.

The CHAIRMAN: The minister has agreed to provide that.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, that is fine.

[Supplementary Information No B15.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I refer to the last dot point on page 871 regarding outbound tourism in particular. What is being done to combat the increasing amount of outbound tourism and the effect it is having on our economy?

[2.30 pm]

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is a good question. Obviously, Western Australia is a very successful place with a very successful economy. It means that the average Western Australian has more disposable income, and has the opportunity to do things that would not have been possible before the success of the economy. We must encourage Western Australians to holiday at home. In our marketing budget we are concentrating on the three major areas. I will go into more detail later, but we probably now have the largest marketing budget in the

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state's history by a long way. Part of the marketing exercise concentrates on encouraging Western Australians to stay here. About half the annual tourism spend in Western Australia is by locals - what is called intrastate tourism. Intrastate tourism accounts for \$2.2 billion of spending within the state, according to the way in which we analyse these figures. The other half comes from people from interstate and overseas. My recollection is that the average Western Australian travels within Western Australia on holidays for about four nights a year. That totals more than 20 million to 22 million night stays in the state per annum, and \$2.2 billion of spending within the state. Each \$1 million of spending equates to about eight jobs, so that is a lot of employment for the state.

During the last term of government, we created the regional tourism organisations, which was a more sensible way of distributing scarce tourism resources than was happening before. Before that there were 10 tourism zones, and the money was being scattered around small visitor centres all over the state. There was no coordination and not a great deal of professionalism. In some cases there was a higher degree of professionalism than in others. We decided to create a much more professional arrangement so that each region has a professional organisation with a permanent chief executive officer and sufficient funds available for marketing that region. The electorates of the members for Mandurah, Hillarys and South Perth come within what is called Experience Perth; the electorates of Albany and Collie-Wellington come within Australia's South West; and the electorate of Merredin comes within Australia's Golden Outback. We provided a great deal more marketing funds to each of these bodies. We gave each of them an additional \$100 000 just the week before last to market the state. They generate a lot of their income from contributions from tourist operators, but an extra \$500 000 has been allocated to marketing within Western Australia by the regional tourism organisations in the past two weeks.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer the minister to page 876 of the *Budget Statements*, under the heading "Destination Marketing". I note that for the line item "Total Cost of Service", the 2004-05 budget amount was \$20.078 million, while the 2004-05 estimated actual was \$27.798 million. That is an increase of nearly \$8 million. The third dot point on the following page reads -

Implemented extensive public relations and familiarisation programs to bring journalists from around the world to Western Australia. On an annual basis, the program typically delivers 180 trips in Western Australia for 1300 high profile participants. This program costs Tourism WA around \$500,000 to deliver and the Western Australian tourism industry contributed around \$2.6 million in cash or in-kind support.

In spite of that, I notice that in the 12 months to December 2004, there were 587 000 international visitors to Western Australia. That was an increase of only 2.9 per cent on the previous year. How did this percentage increase compare with other states, and what can be done to inject more into tourism, apart from the initiatives that have been started this year? It was raised in Parliament recently that other states had far more significant increases than Western Australia. Is the minister confident that this new program he has just implemented will be able to address that issue?

Mr M. McGOWAN: As I said before, we have increased substantially the amount of money allocated to destination marketing. It has gone up enormously, and we have listened to the industry. The point the member raised is that, in the last calendar year, there was a 2.9 per cent increase in the number of international visitors to the state. He is correct in saying that this increase is lower than that in other states. The important fact to note, however, is that although the number of visitors is important, the amount of time they stay for is far more important, because that equates to how much they spend, and the yield from the individual tourist. A whole range of factors must be taken into account, including the number of visitors, how long they stay and where they come from. These things can all affect the amount of money they spend. The type of tourists, whether they are backpackers or people attending conventions, is also important, because obviously their spending patterns will be different. The time of year in which overseas visitors come to Western Australia is also important. We would prefer to attract international tourists, particularly convention tourists, in the winter months when there is a lot of slack in hotels. A whole range of factors need to be considered.

Mr J.E. McGRATH: Having said that, would the minister not still prefer 10 per cent to 2.9 per cent, irrespective of how much they spend?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I would prefer our increase of 13.7 per cent in the number of nights stayed to the increase in New South Wales of 11.9 per cent. Western Australia had the second biggest increase in the number of nights stayed of all the states. That is probably a better measure. I suppose the best measure is the increase in expenditure, and Western Australia came second in that regard. Those are probably better measures than the number of visitors, because they determine how much was spent in the state.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I refer to the appropriation and forward estimates on page 871. I note that the net amount appropriated to deliver services in the 2004-05 budget was \$34.612 million, while the estimated actual for that

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year is \$43.258 million, which is a blow-out of about \$11 million. Can the minister explain where that money has gone? Has that been the cost of running Tourism WA? Is it due to an increase in staff, or some specialised information technology that is being installed?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thank the member for the question. He is right; the amount appropriated for the delivery of services was estimated at the time the Treasurer brought down the budget as \$34.612 million, and the actual amount spent is estimated - we have not actually reached the end of the financial year - as \$43.258 million, which is an increase of a bit over \$8 million. That money can be explained by the following factors: we had to provide supplementary funding of \$1.107 million to Rally Australia; we took a policy decision to fund the tsunami soccer game at Subiaco Oval between Indonesia and Australia, which cost \$250 000; and we put \$500 000 into the proposed world championship boxing bout between Danny Green and Marcus Bayer.

[2.40 pm]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That did not happen.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will get into that in a minute. I will answer the member's question first.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The government has not spent \$500 000 on something that did not happen, surely.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will explain that in just a moment. We provided \$1 million assistance for the Perth Convention Bureau. We gave it a grant to attempt to attract conventions in a similar way to the way in which EventsCorp does. We provided supplementary funding of \$1.75 million to put together the Real Thing campaign, which is the new advertising campaign that the member would have seen. During the election we committed another \$1 million for destination marketing, which has already been put into the budget. The member for South Perth asked a question a moment ago about \$500 000 of that. We have added another \$3.4 million as part of the recent announcement by the Premier of three or four weeks ago for the marketing of the state. That explains the \$8 million. It is basically for destination marketing funding, putting together the Real Thing campaign, additional money to attract conventions, the soccer game and the additional money that Rally Australia regularly requires.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Will the minister explain about the boxing that did not take place?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I invite Peter Kealley to answer that question.

Mr P.G. Kealley: The \$500 000 was current as supplementary funding when the budget was framed. The warrant has now lapsed and will be withdrawn and returned to Treasury by 30 June.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: All those amounts that the minister has read out add up to the difference between the 2004-05 budget and the estimated actual. Part of it, the minister said, was \$3 million or so that the Premier announced the other day. Has that money already been spent? Is the Premier making an announcement after the money has been spent, because we are almost at the end of this financial year?

Mr M. McGOWAN: In the middle of last month the Premier made an announcement of an additional \$9.4 million in marketing spending, which comprised \$6 million for the next financial year and \$3.4 million for this financial year. By 30 June, \$3.4 million of bookings and the like will have been made from that additional marketing money.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: What does the minister mean by "bookings"?

Mr M. McGOWAN: When a marketing campaign is entered into, advertising is booked with television stations. As I have said, we provided additional funding for regional tourism organisations. That \$3.4 million will be acquitted by 30 June.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Is the minister saying that the government spent over \$3 million in the space of one month following the announcement by the Premier? Is he saying that the government will have spent all that in one month or that the Premier made the decision after there had been a blow-out in some of that expenditure?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Some \$500 000 has gone to the RTOs, as I have outlined to the member, in the form of \$100 000 to each RTO. In addition, \$2 million of the expenditure has gone into an advertising campaign in Sydney and Melbourne. When advertising is done on television, which is what the industry is consistently requesting that we do, as the member would be aware, it costs a lot of money. For the first time in memory we have advertised on television stations in the eastern states. That was done with the Real Thing campaign that we developed around Brand WA, which involves forests, wildflowers, marine experience, outback experience, hospitality and wine and food. I take it the member has seen the advertisements.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes. I am staggered that the government has spent all that in one month.

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Mr M. McGOWAN: Those advertisements are on television in the eastern states as we speak, and the advertising campaign has cost \$2 million. The member might say that it is too much to spend on that, but it has been consistently found that television is an effective form of advertising. We want to improve our visitor numbers from the eastern states. That is the sort of thing that we are looking at doing.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The government shut down the offices over there, so it has to do something. Television advertising is obviously the only option if the government shuts down the shopfronts.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Following on to some degree from what has been spoken about, the second dot point on page 878 refers to the ironman triathlon in Busselton. It was a very successful event, and certainly opened my eyes to the number of people who came from around the world to attend it. Although initial funding was made available for this event, will ongoing funding be made available to keep this event in Western Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thank the member for Collie for the question. As he would be aware, the ironman event in Busselton was very successful. The investment that we put in returned far more than the investment in any of the other events that the state has historically supported. From our point of view it was, therefore, a good investment, especially for regional Western Australia, and I am sure for many people from the member's electorate. It complements the other events we are putting on in the region, especially the surfing event that was known as the Salomon Masters, although it may not be known as that in the future. The ironman event complements other events in the south west. As the member for Albany would know, the cross-adventure event was held in Albany. Competitors from around the world took part in all sorts of extreme sports. It showed off the assets of Albany to the world, particularly on cable television stations in the United States and Europe. The year before I think the event took place in Kalbarri when it was again beamed around the world. The ironman event takes place again in Busselton in November this year and the government has contracted for it for next year as well. It has been very successful and we are looking forward to building on that success this year and next year. It is one of the success stories of EventsCorp. As the member will note from the budget, EventsCorp funding has gone through the roof under this government. We are very pleased to support these sorts of events that bring employment and enjoyment to regional areas. I recently announced a specific scheme for events dedicated to regional Western Australia with grants of between \$5 000 and \$20 000 available for country communities. The application period expires on 17 June. If members have any specific events which their community would like to put in, we will be only too happy to look at them.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: Page 873 refers to decisions made since the state election. It would appear that the Broome Visitor Centre is set for a \$1 million upgrade over the next two years. Will the minister explain exactly what is happening with the Broome Visitor Centre? I also make the point that these visitor centres are very important. They are almost a shopfront for tourism in the regions. The tourism visitor centre in Merredin reflects the amount of funding that it gets, because it is certainly not a shopfront for tourism in the wheatbelt. It receives minimal funding. Until last year the community had cake stalls to attract funds which would enable a person to run that tourism visitor centre in Merredin. Merredin is the first port of call for tourists, especially into that golden outback region where we are trying desperately hard to develop more product and attract tourists. As such, it is important that it is not just icon towns like Margaret River and Broome that have access to visitor centre upgrades, but also places like Merredin and Hyden, which is also one of our tourist destinations.

The CHAIRMAN: I am sure there is a question there somewhere.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: There is; it is about the Broome Visitor Centre and whether we will see similar upgrades at other visitor centres across the state.

The CHAIRMAN: Excellent.

[2.50 pm]

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thought the entry point to the golden outback was Cunderdin!

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: It probably is. I am just saying that Cunderdin does not have a visitor centre but Merredin does.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does it not have that big photograph or is that in Meckering?

I thank the member for his question; he raises a good point. The government has committed \$1 million towards a new visitor centre in Broome. That money is part of the \$3 million. I understand that the Broome Shire and industry in Broome is putting up the remainder of the funding. It is a \$3 million commitment, and the state government has committed money to the Broome centre. Only one centre - the Perth visitor centre - operates in Perth. It provides more benefits for the country than it does for the city because it feeds all the people who come here looking for that experience out to country areas from the city. The state government funds that one single

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centre. So far we have not received any assistance from the City of Perth. That is somewhat anomalous because most of the other visitor centres in capital cities receive assistance from the local council.

We are assisting Broome with its project because of its tourism standing, albeit there are a number of them, but Broome has that iconic basis. Broome also has a reasonably small rate base compared with other areas around the state of similar tourism standing. Eastern states aircraft fly directly to Broome, and they require servicing. It is proposed that international flights also will fly out of Broome.

It is a one-off allocation to the town of Broome in light of its tourism status and given its condition. Broome attracts people from around the world more so than does Merredin. That is not meant as a criticism of Merredin; in fact, I like Merredin. I stayed there during the by-election that the member for Merredin won when I was assisting his campaign against the Liberal Party! As I said, Broome has a special iconic status in Australia, a small rate base and a very dated visitor centre that is not in keeping with its status.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I take that on board. However, my point is that tourism money seems to be constantly directed towards icon-type places such as Broome and Margaret River, while the level below that - the golden outback of the state - does not seem to be able to take a chip out of the funding. We are not asking for \$1 million; we would like some help to try to lift the bar a little.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will provide the member for Merredin with some information on the assistance that is available to the visitor centres in his electorate and he can feed that to them if he likes. Sometimes there is some confusion about funding because we changed the system. Five years ago, when I was shadow Minister for Tourism, the system involved little packets of donations being allocated to every single visitor centre throughout the state. That made it difficult to discern any substantial difference in tourism growth so we decided to amalgamate all the funds and give them to the regions so that they could market themselves and allow local authorities to look after visitor centres as much as they could. That was a brave move; it probably creates some consternation among some of these communities but it is a more sensible and rational way of funding the visitor centres.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I notice that the Albany visitor centre will be closed and taken over by the Albany City Council. I am aware of a press release on it, although I do not know the full story and I do not know whether the minister knows about it yet. What does the minister think about that?

Mr M. McGOWAN: My understanding is that the Albany Visitor Centre is already run by the local council. The member will find that very few visitor centres are not run by councils. The Western Australian Visitor Centre in Forrest Place is run by the state government but that is an exception. I can provide the member with further information on that. However, as far as I am aware, the Albany Visitor Centre is run by the local authority already, albeit there might be some internal machinations attached to it. Some visitor centres are assisted by a committee; for instance, a local tourism committee is attached to the Rockingham Visitor Centre, whereas the Mandurah Visitor Centre answers directly to an officer at the local council. Various aspects commend both models to local communities. The more professional the visitor centres appear, the better the tourism outcomes for the community. However, it might mean treading on some toes to achieve a high standard.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I refer the minister to the third dot point on page 872 regarding air services to Western Australia. What is being done to attract airline services from overseas?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thank the member for Albany for the question. Obviously the entry into this state of air carriers is an extremely important issue for tourism. We want to encourage more people to come here. During our last term of government, the government provided an incentive to attract Emirates to Western Australia. That has worked out very well. Emirates is taking away some of the market from other airlines, such as Qantas and Singapore Airlines, which previously had the lion's share of the market. The government thinks the competitive impact of more services at a cheaper rate is a good thing for the state. We are very pleased to have assisted Emirates in its move to fly here. Since October-November last year, Valair's flights have been coming in from Singapore. To date, Valair's entry into the market directly from Singapore has increased the tourism market from Singapore by 26 to 30 per cent per annum. That is nothing less than spectacular. The fact that those airlines fly into Western Australia is a very good thing. Qantas recently announced 11 extra direct flights to Western Australia from the eastern states.

The additional funds announced by the Premier a few weeks ago will be used to develop additional services from the Japanese, Chinese and South Korean markets. At this stage there are no direct flights into Western Australia from South Korea or China. Three direct flights a week come from Narita Airport in Tokyo, and we would like some flights to come from what they call western Japan, which is basically out of Osaka. We would also like some flights to come in from somewhere in China - probably Shanghai - and from Seoul. It is very difficult to convince foreign airlines to fly direct to our airports given the many competing interests of domestic airlines

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from other states, international competition and political considerations. Many of these airlines have significant government involvement in their boards and ownership structures. Additional funds to build a market, particularly in Japan, China and South Korea, will assist to secure airline access from those destinations.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Will the government seek to provide a flow-on effect from the destinations to country regions? In other words, will tourists who fly with those airlines be able to connect with flights to country regions such as Albany, Geraldton or Broome, or even Merredin through Kalgoorlie? Tourists come to Perth but we cannot get them to regional areas and that is a huge problem. As the member for Merredin said, we need to get tourists to visit regional and country areas.

Mr M. McGOWAN: As I indicated before, we are providing more money so that those areas can market themselves.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I am more concerned that connecting flights are available, because we do not want tourists to go over east; we want them to visit our regional areas.

[3.00 pm]

Mr M. McGOWAN: I think the arrangement the member is talking about is called code-sharing, in which perhaps the international carrier has an arrangement with a domestic carrier whereby flights can be booked simultaneously. At the moment, Skywest has an arrangement with Emirates. A person who flies Emirates into Perth from London can book his flight to Perth in London, as well as his through flight to Albany or Merredin, if that is where he wants to go after coming from London. Obviously Qantas has an arrangement with QantasLink into this state. The member raised an important point and that is the sort of discussion we need to continue to have.

Mr P.B. WATSON: The reason I raised this issue is that Skywest has been taken over by a Singaporean firm. It is a perfect opportunity when they hook up with people in Asia to get those people down here and spread them throughout Western Australia before they go over east.

Mr M. McGOWAN: On that point, tourists coming to Western Australia like different things.

Mr P.B. WATSON: We have everything in Albany, so it does not matter.

[Mr J.R. Quigley took the chair.]

Mr M. McGOWAN: What we find is a lot of tourists from Asia, notwithstanding the lure of Albany, especially like the comforts of a major capital city - golf courses, five-star hotels, the casino, the Aquarium of Western Australia, shopping centres - like the heart of Perth and those sorts of places. However, tourists from interstate and particularly from northern Europe like travelling to regional areas. We have to really target what we do for those people who are more likely to go to regional areas. We would probably find that a lot of Swedish and German backpackers -

Mr P.B. WATSON: A lot of Asian tourists come to Albany for the golf course and to stay at the Esplanade Hotel.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member makes a good point.

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: I refer to service 4, industry development, on page 880. We have been talking about encouraging tourists from all over the world. According to the Caravan Parks and Camping Grounds Act 1995, a review of the act should have commenced after 1 October 2002. The minister was to then prepare a report based on the review of the act and present it to Parliament. Has the review of the act commenced and has it been finalised? Has the minister's report been completed? Would the minister let me know at what stage the government is at with that review?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Although this is a good question, it is probably more appropriately directed to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development, who has responsibility for that act of Parliament. I remind the member for Alfred Cove that, as far as I am aware, what the caravan park industry was asking for most of all was a cut in land tax. It got that a week ago in the state budget. Its land tax has been halved. When I met with the industry, that is what it was most concerned about.

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: It was also after improved toilet facilities - sewage disposal - for mobile homes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will put it this way: as part of our business servicing arrangements we, including the Peel and South West Development Commissions, are certainly going to a lot of effort to make life easier for people who caravan. My parents are among that segment of the population, so I am made very aware on a regular basis of the importance of caravanning to the local economy in many regional areas of Western Australia. We will certainly do everything we can to assist them.

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The member's specific question about the review of the caravan act would be more appropriately directed to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have two questions, one of which is a follow-on from the member for Albany's question. According to the fourth dot point on page 877 of the budget papers, one of the government's major achievements was an increase in international and domestic non-stop air services to Perth, including the doubling of services from Hong Kong to six a week. Would the minister describe what specific marketing projects are being undertaken to attract Hong Kong visitors to Perth?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The Western Australian Tourism Commission has worked with both Cathay Pacific and Qantas to increase services from Hong Kong. As members can see from the *Budget Statements*, the service has doubled to six, which is a fantastic outcome. We have some specific marketing arrangements with Cathay Pacific and Qantas in that location to boost that service. That is the sort of arrangement that normally works to secure additional flights into Perth from those destinations.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The government is not actually spending any money in promoting WA. Has the government undertaken any marketing projects?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The WA Tourism Commission has undertaken specific marketing campaigns in Hong Kong in conjunction with Cathay Pacific and Qantas, which has meant the expenditure of public funds.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: What sort of money has that involved?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We do not have those figures to hand.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Could I have that answer by way of supplementary information? The minister has plenty of time to do that.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will give that answer by way of supplementary information.

The CHAIRMAN: Would the member identify that supplementary information?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister will describe what specific marketing projects have been undertaken to attract Hong Kong visitors to Perth, and that is in relation to the doubling of the Hong Kong service.

[Supplementary Information No B16.]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: My main question relates to page 873, major policy decisions. In the 2005-06 budget estimate for destination marketing \$3 million has been allocated for the next financial year and the following forward estimate financial years. The minister said earlier that a record amount of funds for destination marketing had been given. I question that. What funds have been allocated for destination marketing over the past five years?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does the member want me to answer that right now?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I can give the minister the answer, if he would like. It differs very much indeed from the comments the minister made that this government has spent more on destination marketing than any other government in history.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will go over it for the benefit of the member for Hillarys. He is right that on page 873 reference is made to increased funding for destination marketing, and a decision taken since the last election was to continue the Brand campaign. That amounts to more than \$9 million.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: My question is in relation to destination marketing, for which \$3 million is allocated.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, and also the Brand campaign - it is essentially the same thing.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: How is it the same thing? Destination marketing is money that is spent interstate, intrastate and overseas to promote Western Australia as a place to visit for a holiday. Brand marketing is different from that. My question is specific to destination marketing. I can give the minister the answer. For the past few years this government has spent an abysmal amount of money on destination marketing.

Mr M. McGOWAN: They are very similar projects in that they are both advertising the Real Thing campaign. I went over it with the member recently. I will tell the member what the \$9.4 million will be spent on, if he likes.

[3.10 pm]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am interested in the \$3 million. The minister said that is the most any government has ever spent on destination marketing. The government spent only \$1.2 million in 2003-04.

Mr M. McGOWAN: As the member would recall, we undertook before the state election that we would increase marketing by \$3 million a year. Those figures of an additional \$3 million for marketing have been

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factored into the budget for this year and in each of the out years. In addition to that, the Premier announced a few weeks ago an additional \$9.4 million for marketing, comprising \$3.4 million this financial year and \$6 million next financial year. Of the \$3.4 million, \$500 000 has gone to the RTOs, and \$2 million has gone into television campaigns in the eastern states. The member asked about the amount that we are putting into marketing.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Destination marketing.

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is the same thing. In this year's budget we have put \$25.535 million into destination marketing. That is a 69.9 per cent increase on the last budget of the last Liberal government. The amount that was allocated for destination marketing in the 2000-01 budget was \$15.027 million. There has been a 70 per cent increase in destination marketing over the past four years.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No. The minister has talked about the period from 2000-01 to this year. He has not talked about the years in between. That is why I said for the past five years. To pick up on what the minister has said, the figure under the forward estimates for this major policy decision is \$3 million a year. If that \$3 million is an additional amount, where can that be found in the budget? If what the minister is saying is correct, in the next financial year the government will be spending \$6 million. If it will be spending \$6 million, why is that not included under that major policy decision?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Page 874 details the five services that are provided by Tourism Western Australia, and the increase in expenditure over the past year. An amount has been allocated for each of those five sectors. The member will note that destination marketing is receiving the lion's share of the tourism budget.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: But in the forward estimates the figures are blank. There are no figures in the forward estimates for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09. That means this is a one-off payment. There is nothing in the forward estimates for destination marketing - unless I have a funny copy that has bits that are blank and everyone else has a copy that does not have bits that are blank.

Mr M. McGOWAN: During the state election campaign we allocated an additional \$3 million per annum. That is detailed on page 873. With regard to the specific commitment made by the Premier a couple of weeks ago, the member for Hillarys has raised an important point; that is, when we made that announcement, we said that this is a special commitment to the industry to provide for destination marketing. Some of the markets that have been targeted are the eastern states, \$2 million; the United Kingdom, \$2.9 million; Japan, \$1.5 million; South Korea, \$1.5 million; China, \$500 000; and New Zealand, \$200 000. There was also \$500 000 for the intrastate component. That adds up to \$9.4 million in additional marketing. The way in which this was announced by the Premier was that this is a dividend to the industry to meet the industry's consistent requests for additional funding for marketing. It is very important that we make this work.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: But there is nothing in the forward estimates. The minister said that the \$3 million that is shown on the previous page is additional funding. However, there is not even the ordinary funding in the forward estimates.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will finish making my point. We said to the industry that we are determined to make marketing work, and we want to see some outcomes. As Minister for Tourism, I have been successful in the past couple of months in securing more money for marketing out of the Expenditure Review Committee. It is very important that those funds be made to work. I said to the Tourism Commission and the industry, when I addressed them recently, that we need to make this work, because there are a lot of competing demands within government for funding. A few moments ago the member was expressing some scepticism about television advertising.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, I was not. I was saying that if the government closes down the shopfronts in those areas, it will need to advertise somewhere.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member had a quizzical expression on his face, if I can put it that way, about the additional money that we are putting into the television campaign in the eastern states. We need to make this work. If it works, I am confident that we will receive repeat funding. It will be up to the industry and the government to make sure that we receive an increase in tourist expenditure as a consequence of our additional marketing, and that is what we intend to do.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That does not answer the question. I am saying there is nothing in the forward estimates for destination marketing.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member will find in each of the agencies that we do not provide forward estimates at that level.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is not so.

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Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is. The forward estimates are found in the overall appropriations.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is absolute rubbish.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Hillarys has been going to estimates hearings for 12 years. He should have a look.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Thirteen years.

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is unlucky for some.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes - the minister. I am on the minister's case! I am watching every move he makes!

Mr J.E. McGRATH: I refer to page 880. The first dot point under major initiatives for 2005-06 states that the government has set aside \$1 million over four years, with state and industry funding on a 2:1 ratio, for a convention bidding fund to attract conventions to come to Perth. That is obviously linked to the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre. The Tourism Commission obviously believes that conventions have the potential to generate tourist expenditure. Does the city of Perth have sufficient accommodation facilities to service major conventions if we are successful in getting them to come to Perth?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I thank the member for the question. We are putting some effort into providing incentives for conventions to come to Perth. We need to do that to compete with other capital cities that are also providing incentives. EventsCorp works on the principle of encouraging events to come to Western Australia in order to generate economic activity. The convention bidding fund will work on the same principle. The member asked whether the city of Perth has the capacity to cope with large conventions. The largest convention that has ever been held in the history of Perth will take place between 18 and 24 June this year. That convention, which will be held at the convention centre, is the Australian Tourism Exchange. It will attract more than 2 500 delegates. The city is coping well with that. It has been a terrific experience to get that convention up and running. This morning I met with the staff who are working on that convention. Hotels across the state are providing 500 or 600 free rooms for international delegates, and the airlines are providing free tickets for international delegates, because we hope they will purchase Western Australian product. The convention will show what we have on offer in Western Australia. We will undertake 70 different familiarisation tours from Perth to the regions, such as the south west, and other parts of the metropolitan area. It is an enormous event. The government has allocated \$2 million for that event. To answer the question, the hotel sector in Western Australia is very professional, and we are looking to secure new hotels. In fact, 300 additional beds will be available when the Burswood extension opens in August. The state's capacity is improving all the time.

[3.20 pm]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: In relation to EventsCorp and Rally Australia, can the minister tell me when the volunteer who does the budget for Rally Australia -

Mr M. McGOWAN: Which page is this in the budget papers?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Any one the minister likes - I can say page 1! I know it is a very sensitive subject to the minister.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Page 1?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It is under the global amount spent by the Western Australian Tourism Commission. The question specifically relates to Rally Australia. When was the volunteer who has always done the budget for Rally Australia asked to change the formula that gave a different return outcome? The minister must have a briefing note on this matter; he must have known the question would come up.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The simple premise of the question -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister does not want to answer it; is that correct?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The central premise of the question is incorrect. The member is asking me to work out the economic benefit of Rally Australia; is that right?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No. I am not. Do not try to change it. It was stated categorically that the person who normally does the budget for Rally Australia was asked by a person in EventsCorp to use a different formula. I ask the question: when was that instruction about the return given? In the past, Rally Australia has always showed a return of nearly \$20 million. The new formula that the person was asked to use returned her only \$9 million. I think my question is simple enough: when was that person asked?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Member for Hillarys -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It is a difficult question, I know.

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Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Mr M. McGOWAN: It is based on a false premise. As far as I am aware, there is no volunteer who works out how much benefit the event brings to Western Australia.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It was someone on the committee of Rally Australia. I have the names and everything else; the minister knows what I am talking about. The minister may look up to the media; they are watching - it is okay. It is simple: when was the formula changed, and on whose instruction?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Hillarys is acting on a false premise. Somebody has given him some advice or he has heard a whisper somewhere that is inaccurate. In 2002, we used a different formula to calculate the economic benefit of Rally Australia.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Where did the formula come from?

Mr M. McGOWAN: We got it as a result of advice from the Australian Capital Territory Auditor General. It was advice that has been confirmed by virtually every other state government, apart from those that might like to mislead on the value of some of these events. The Tourism Commission worked with the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism and the Department of Treasury and Finance to develop more appropriate and transparent measures to work out the value of events. As I told the member for Hillarys before, historically - the member will recall from the time Hon Norman Moore was Minister for Tourism - outlandish claims have been made about the benefit of the event.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It started under the minister's former government in the 1980s.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Those outlandish claims were misleading and dishonest. They came up with all sorts of multipliers on the benefits of these events that were plainly wrong. I will give the member an example. I was asked the other day whether the government would provide assistance via EventsCorp for an event at Burswood. That particular event, a production, would not bring in anyone from interstate or overseas. Many locals would enjoy the production. If the government had provided assistance for that event, it would have subsidised only local people's attendance at a production at Burswood. The economic benefit of that event to the state would have been nil. The economic benefit provided by events is calculated as follows: how many people will come from interstate to Western Australia; how many people will come from overseas to Western Australia; and what media coverage would the event attract from core markets interstate and overseas? Another consideration - perhaps less so - is the time of the year that the event is held. The formula now used basically works out the spend of tourists -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: When was that formula first used?

Mr M. McGOWAN: It was 2002.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Why is it that the previous minister was espousing the value and economic benefit to Western Australia of Rally Australia only a year ago?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Which minister?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The previous one.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Which one?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I know for a fact that Hon Clive Brown did -

Mr M. McGOWAN: Hon Clive Brown was not the previous minister.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I believe Hon Bob Kucera did as well, or was that just good news during that particular Rally Australia week?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am unaware of that comment; perhaps if the member provided advice on when that happened, I could provide a more definitive answer. My approach as minister is that I will be honest, I will not mislead and I will not use outlandish formulas to work out the value of events. We have a set formula to work out the spend of visitors to the state from interstate and overseas and the media coverage in core markets. That is the criteria we will use to work out whether events will be good for the state.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Does the minister believe the state was losing money on Rally Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The answer to that question is that every event loses money for the state. We get no profit back for the state from the money put in. The only event we get any money back from is the Hopman Cup, and that does not quite cover costs. We spent \$6 million on Rally Australia and got nothing back as a state; however, we received some economic benefit from the event. The economic benefit from Rally Australia, as I have said to the member on innumerable occasions, is \$9.6 million for the \$6 million spent.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Which is a \$1.50 return on the dollar.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The economic benefit from other events is up to \$80 for every dollar spent.

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It is a bit like a supermarket chain and a small corner shop: of course there is a bigger return on an item in a corner shop. There is a smaller return when selling quantity, but one still gets a return.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does the member call the Hopman Cup a small event?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, of course I do not.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does the member call the Rugby World Cup a small event?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Does the member call the Margaret River Salomon Masters, an important event for the south west, a small event?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It is probably smaller than Rally Australia, and would not receive the world television coverage of Rally Australia.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Would the member call the Johnnie Walker Classic golf tournament a small event?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member is wrong. They are not small events. They are big events.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I never said they were small events.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member is wrong. They are big events.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I have an additional question on this matter. Has any interest been shown by any other country in picking up Rally Australia?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am unaware of any other country bidding for it. We would like a transition for Rally Australia to move to another Australian state. I understand the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports is at present assessing other bids. We support also a Western Australian bid, provided it meets the cost criteria. The government has committed \$2 million for a Western Australian bidder. I am unaware of interest by other countries, and we would like to keep the event in Western Australia if a bidder can meet the cost parameters. The commitment is \$2 million per annum for a Western Australian bidder. The \$2 million commitment would still be the biggest financial commitment by the state for any single event by a long way.

Meeting suspended from 3.29 to 3.43 pm

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have agreed with government members that we will do our best to finish the tourism section by four o'clock. I certainly want to keep to that. They have said that they will not ask any more questions to enable me to ask some of the questions that I have - I have dozens of them, actually.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Can I clarify one point? Are we dealing with the Rottnest Island Authority as part of tourism?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, that will be dealt with at 5.30 pm. It is a separate division. It will be dealt with after the other divisions.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am not sure about that.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I assure the minister that procedurally that must be the case. It must be dealt with at 5.30 pm because it is an off-budget item, and it is in the standing order.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes, I see.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I would like to progress a bit more on the question of Telstra Rally Australia. I made some comments prior to our refreshment break. The minister was not aware that the previous minister had espoused the values of Rally Australia. I want to see whether the minister can remember a press release that was sent out by Hon Bob Kucera in November 2003, in which he said -

“Events such as the Hyundai Hopman Cup 2003, Telstra Rally Australia 2003 . . .

He mentioned other ones. The press release continues -

injected an estimated \$67million in direct expenditure into the local economy . . .

He also mentioned the Salomon Masters, which is a worldwide surfing event. I wonder why the minister did not attend that event this year. That is one question. I also want to remind the minister that what he said when he was a backbencher lives with him and haunts him now that he has become a minister. The minister asked a dorothy dix question of the then Minister for Tourism. It is a question on notice, and the minister said -

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

With such a strong background there is no doubt that the Rally is one of WA's hallmark events and there is now the potential for it to be built into a significant tourism asset. However, for that to happen we must have security of tenure.

They are comments that the minister made on 7 May 2003 in a question on notice to the Labor minister of the day.

Mr M. McGOWAN: A question on notice?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes, a question on notice.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the member refer us to the question number, please?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The question on notice was asked on 7 May in the Legislative Assembly. It was a question from member Mr McGowan, as he then was, to Minister Brown; that is, it was a question from the current minister to the then minister, Mr Brown.

The CHAIRMAN: I wonder whether the member will show the minister the question so that he might be able to refresh his memory, rather than hold up a document.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am sure it is etched in his memory.

The CHAIRMAN: Will the member show the question to the minister?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes, certainly. It is the question on notice that the minister sent in -

The CHAIRMAN: Will the member pass it to the minister so that he can read it?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I might need it. I can tell by the minister's flushing up that he knows of the question.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I am sure I will give it straight back to the member.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: By all means. The minister can look at it. Does the minister remember it?

The CHAIRMAN: Just give him a moment.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That was only about 18 months ago. I wonder how the minister can have such a change of heart in that time when nothing has really changed. The minister said that the formula had already changed by then. He said that the formula changed in 2002. Based on the minister's earlier answer, the formula changed in 2002. The minister made those comments in that question on notice.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Hillarys quoted the answer by the minister. He did not quote a statement by me.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member said a moment ago that I said it. I did not say anything of the sort.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It was a question on notice from the minister.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member was quoting the answer by the minister.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, I am saying that it was a question on notice from the minister.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Yes. I was allowed to ask a question -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: It was a dorothy dix question. I have quoted what the minister of the day, Hon Bob Kucera, said. The minister tried to tell me earlier that it was only Clive Brown who made those statements about the value of Rally Australia. However, I have quoted what Hon Bob Kucera said. He also said - I want the minister to think about this -

The CHAIRMAN: The member has put to the minister a series of accusations and questions. I wonder whether the member would pause to let the minister respond.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I just want to put to him one more quote, because it is quite important.

The CHAIRMAN: No, in fairness, just let the minister respond to what has been put to him. Then the member can ask a further question.

[3.50 pm]

Mr P.B. WATSON: Which line of the budget is the member talking about?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have already given that in the earlier question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I did not hear it; I was wondering if the member could quote from it.

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Members should keep their ears open in this place, and keep an eye on what is going on. I know the member is only trying to protect the minister, but the minister is a big boy now and should answer his own questions.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I was speaking to the Chairman, not to the member for Hillarys.

The CHAIRMAN: Let the minister answer the question. I will not have this exchange across the chamber. Allow the minister to answer the question that has been put to him, then I will come back.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The question, as far as I can determine, from the member for Hillarys, is: why did Hon Bob Kucera answer that question on notice in that fashion? The member seems to insinuate that I have some sort of ownership of the answer given. I clarify for members that the question was actually answered by Hon Clive Brown when he was Minister for Tourism, not Hon Bob Kucera when he was Minister for Tourism. Secondly, the fact that I ask a question does not mean I am responsible for the answer.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the member have a further question?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have them all, basically. Government members are not asking any more; that is part of the agreement, because I have agreed that we should finish this division at four o'clock.

The CHAIRMAN: A point of order was raised; that is all I was looking to. Further question?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: In relation to the same subject, the member stated earlier that the only minister who espoused the value of Rally Australia was Hon Clive Brown. He intimated that it was not Hon Bob Kucera, the previous minister.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I said Hon Norman Moore.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister said that previously, but when I suggested it was Hon Clive Brown, the minister accepted that. However, he did then accept that it was Hon Bob Kucera. This press release from Hon Bob Kucera is dated 14 October 2004, and reads -

“Events like the Gravity Games, the Ironman event and Telstra Rally Australia are enormous drawcards which focus international attention on WA and the tourism opportunities we offer,” the Minister said.

That statement was made just before Christmas last year. What has changed in that time?

The CHAIRMAN: Since the member is reading from a press release, I want it to be consistent with the question, on which it turned out the minister had a different take. Can the member please show the minister the press release from which he quotes?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am happy to do so. How could things change in just over six months?

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member for Hillarys is correct about this one. He has the right minister in relation to this press release.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I said the other one was from McGowan to Brown.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member said “Kucera” last time.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is the other one; I have quoted three so far.

The CHAIRMAN: That information is in *Hansard*. It does not help to have an argument about what was said in the previous question when we do not have a written record yet. Could the minister now reply to the question posed?

Mr M. McGOWAN: As far as I understand it, the member is asking me why the former Minister for Tourism made a certain statement about Telstra Rally Australia. I do not know the answer to that question, because I am not the former minister.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: What has changed since then? This was only in October last year.

Mr M. McGOWAN: As I said, I am not the former Minister for Tourism. If I were, I might be able to answer the member's question, but I am not. I am the current Minister for Tourism, and my views on the event are well known.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I suggest the minister ask his advisers, because they are the same advisers as the previous minister had. The chief executive officer of Tourism WA was an adviser to the previous minister, and is also an adviser to the present minister. These press releases would not have gone out without input from those people.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the member have a question? That statement does not contain a question.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Does the minister have the same advisers, and has he checked with those advisers?

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

Mr M. McGOWAN: It appears that the member for Hillarys' question to me is whether I can ask my advisers to answer a question about what was in the mind of the former Minister for Tourism in 2004, without reference to any provision of the budget. I must say, Mr Chairman, that that is a very unusual question to be asked in this estimates committee. I do not intend to ask my advisers to answer a question about what was in the mind of the former Minister for Tourism six months ago.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That was not the question. The question was: could the minister ask his advisers what changed between October last year and the time the minister made the decision?

Mr P.B. WATSON: Get on with it!

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The member for Albany should be quiet. We agreed to move on at four o'clock, and if he keeps quiet, we will do so. Would the minister please ask his advisers what has changed, because he obviously does not know? He does not have a clue. Were the advisers not even aware of these press releases?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will not ask my advisers to answer a question about what the former minister might have thought about, or what his view might have been. I will answer about what has changed in relation to the event. I have a budget comparison comparing the event in 2000 with the event in 2004. This is probably the most destructive information that can be found about this event. The net cost of this event to the government in 2000 was \$2 644 000.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is five years ago!

Mr M. McGOWAN: That is right. The cost to the government in 2004 was \$5 901 000. The cost has more than doubled over four years. That is about a 120 per cent increase in the cost of the event over four years, at a time when the consumer price index rate in Western Australia has been running at between two and three per cent a year. The increasing costs over that four years have been caused by a decline in sponsorship of \$274 000 -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: When did that happen?

Mr M. McGOWAN: Over that four-year period. Most of these have been fairly steady declines over that period. There has been an increase in insurance costs of \$85 500; an increase in the payment to International Sportsworld Communicators, who run the television coverage, of \$715 000; an increase in the payments to the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile and the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports of \$836 000; an increase in the cost of the special stage of \$367 000; an increase in safety and rescue costs of \$167 000; and an increase in the cost of fuel and hire vehicles to assist volunteer officials and support of \$138 000, in addition to a few other ancillary things. The total net increase in cost to the government is \$3 257 000, or 123 per cent.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I have shown the minister mine; will he now show me his? I would like to see the amounts and the working out that he is quoting from. May I have a copy of that document?

Mr M. McGOWAN: No.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Will the minister not give me a copy? He will not. This is the open and accountable, honest minister who was to be truthful and all the rest of it, but he will not give me a copy of the paper from which he is reading. We cannot table papers in estimates committees. Is the minister not prepared to share that with me?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I read it out.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Then there should be no problem in letting me have a look at it. I have shown the minister mine; now he should show me his.

Mr M. McGOWAN: The member has shown some old press release by a former minister, and then said I should have ownership of it.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The minister will not show me some old scrap of paper from which he is quoting official figures; he is frightened of me having a copy. What is the minister afraid of?

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will provide to the member, by way of supplementary information -

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: A doctored version.

Mr M. McGOWAN: I will provide a list of the increase in costs for each of the aspects of the event. I will provide that to the member. The member should be a little careful at present, in that this event is still subject to some consideration by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport. I do not want to release anything that might be regarded as commercial in confidence, but I will show the member this list.

The CHAIRMAN: Can we just pause there for a moment? The minister has agreed to supply by way of supplementary information a schedule of the increased costs of the Rally Australia event between the years 2000 and 2004.

Mr Rob Johnson; Mr Mark McGowan; Chairman; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr Mick Murray;
Mr Brendon Grylls; Mr Peter Watson; Dr Janet Woollard

[Supplementary Information No B17.]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is all very well, but he is not being open and accountable by refusing to give me a copy of the document is holding his hand a moment.

The CHAIRMAN: Does the member have a question? He is just deriding the minister. What is the question?

[4.00 pm]

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The question is: why does the minister not be open and honest about what he has in his hand?

The CHAIRMAN: To which line in the budget is the member directing the question?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The question relates to the question I have been -

The CHAIRMAN: What line in the budget?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Look, Chairman, the whole idea of budget estimates is for the opposition in particular to have an opportunity to ask questions of the ministers and to get open and honest answers. Unfortunately, we are not getting that today. We did not get it yesterday in the two estimates hearings that I attended. We are not getting it today. Quite frankly, I am wasting my time sitting in here now.

The CHAIRMAN: That is up to you, member.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I am wasting my time because I am not getting answers to questions that I am asking. I am going to leave the chamber, Mr Chairman. The minister can sit and wallow in his own glory because -

The CHAIRMAN: The member can make his statement outside the chamber.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: He deals with dorothy dixers -

The CHAIRMAN: I call the member to order.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: You can do what you like. This is a disgraceful situation. We do not get answers from the minister.

The CHAIRMAN: I name the member for Hillarys.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I think you might have some difficulty there, Mr Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I formally warn you.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: You formally warn me? Okay, I accept that, Mr Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will leave this chamber because I am sick to death of the abuse that is going on in these budget estimates where all ministers get are dorothy dixers from their backbench members and opposition members are not able to ask genuine questions.

The appropriation was recommended.