

INVEST AND TRADE WA — HUB-AND-SPOKE MODEL

888. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Surely, these comments should sound alarm bells and trigger a review of the Premier's failing hub-and-spoke model for our overseas trade offices.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Our trade commissioners and our Agent General are actually in town at the moment. Would the member for Cottesloe like a briefing to hear what they think about the work that they are doing at the moment? They are highly charged and highly strategic, and have very high reputations in the field. Nicole Fasana is outstanding, and we saw that on full display. We went to a cocktail event in Tokyo at which embassy officials' heads were almost swivelling off their shoulders because they saw so many chairs, chief executive officers and company directors. One of them even said, "I've never seen such a concentration of high-powered businesspeople coming out for a state in my life." Look again at what is going on in India at the moment. The High Commissioner there, His Excellency Hon Barry O'Farrell, who has since left, said that no other state is more ambitious or more active in markets than Western Australia.

I took a delegation to Indonesia of 130 business and organisational leaders. At the Association of South-East Asian Nations business summit, they had 180 delegates from Australia, and 120 of those were from Western Australia. No state is having more impact in its —

Mr W.J. Johnston: Look at Indonesian media in the week of the ASEAN conference, when they had leaders from other countries there.

Mr R.H. COOK: Thank you, minister. We should never forget, of course, that when the President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, was in Australia, he specifically requested a meeting with the Premier of Western Australia. That has nothing to do with the Premier of Western Australia, by the way; that has to do with the activities going on in this state and their excitement and eagerness to engage with us. That is down to the great work of Invest and Trade WA and, member, our hub-and-spoke model, which is producing outstanding, in fact, record results in trade inquiries and inbound delegations.