

TAYLOR SWIFT

Statement

HON DARREN WEST (Agricultural — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.27 pm]: Oh dear! It has been a strange and very unusual week, and what I am about to do is not going to make it any less unusual, so apologies in advance. Members may have noticed that a pop performer named Taylor Swift has been in the country this week. For those members who have not heard of Taylor Swift, she is a very popular musician who has performed a series of concerts around the country this week, one of which was attended by over 90 000 fans at the MCG. I think she performed three concerts at the MCG that attracted about 280 000 fans. She was also in Sydney this week. Unfortunately, she did not perform in Perth for our local fans to see and support, but she was here on her last tour. We had World Wrestling Entertainment in Perth last weekend, which was wildly successful. But, members, I am far from being called a “Swiftie”. I put that out there right now. I am a person whose beer of choice is Emu Export and whose karaoke go-to is more Cold Chisel, Jimmy Barnes and the Angels than is or ever will be Taylor Swift.

Can I say how impressed I have been. I took it upon myself to learn a little more about Taylor Swift and the phenomenon she has become. I must say that I have been totally impressed with what I have seen. I will confess here in front of everyone that the weekend before last I was in the tractor on the farm spreading lime and I decided to listen to some Taylor Swift music on Spotify to see whether I could understand what the fuss was all about. I quite enjoyed a lot of the music. I had heard a lot of the songs before but did not realise they were Taylor Swift tunes. She is an inspiration to a generation of young women. She is wildly successful. She believes in lifting people up. The concerts are all about feeling good and enjoyment and bringing people together. Is that not a nice change in the world? I note the contrast between this statement I am making now and the one before it. It is good to see. I am thoroughly impressed.

I am not calling myself a Swiftie yet, but I have been really impressed with what Taylor Swift has been able to achieve. Part of me is glad that it is over and the Taylor Swift train has moved on, as I think are a lot of others.

Hon Jackie Jarvis: You’ve gotta shake it off!

Hon DARREN WEST: Yes, there are a hundred good lines that we could use; thank you, minister. It has been enlightening to have Taylor Swift in Australia. She does great work for young women and their confidence and their capacity to achieve their dreams. I have a daughter who also is not a Swiftie, but her generation has been highly inspired. I am sure there will be a spinoff from the inspiration she has provided to women and that they have the confidence to pursue their dreams, as Taylor Swift has done, and do it very successfully. I think that in the years to come a lot of young women will continue to further their careers and look back at the inspiration that was given to them by Taylor Swift.

Well done, Taylor! Next time you come to Australia, please come and see Perth.