

Division 15: Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission, \$1 788 000 —

Ms A.R. Mitchell, Chairman.

Mr B.J. Grylls, Minister for Regional Development.

Mr R.W. Hicks, Chief Executive Officer.

[Witness introduced.]

The CHAIRMAN: Member for Collie–Preston.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I refer to the continued growth and diversification of the resources industry discussed in the third dot point on page 222 of the *Budget Statements*. Through the Goldfields–Esperance Development Commission, what moneys have been put forward for sporting events including racing—the Kalgoorlie Cup—and the concert that was held last year featuring the band that someone younger than me would remember the name of? What sorts of moneys have been expended and what has been put in the budget for this year? That is, the Kalgoorlie Cup prize money and the concert that was held at the same time at the Kalgoorlie round.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I thank the member for Collie–Preston for the question and for his great interest in those events. I think that the Kalgoorlie–Boulder race round is one of the most outstanding events in the state. Last year, through Eventscorp—members will not actually see the figures in on any of these pages before them, because they will be in the Minister for Tourism’s appropriation—there was support for the Kalgoorlie–Boulder race round of \$100 000, through Eventscorp, to boost it, which allowed for the band that the member talked about, and to give organisers some extra support to run that event. I certainly believe that it can become an iconic Western Australian event, if it is not already, into the future. I know that the race round organisers have applied for substantial support for this year’s event and I am aware that Eventscorp is currently finalising its deliberations on that. Needless to say, I think the Kalgoorlie–Boulder race round is one of our premier events and I would hope that when we get the chance to announce the support that the government, through Eventscorp, is making to it, that the member will agree we are really trying to make it one of the premier events in the state.

Mr J.J.M. BOWLER: Just on this, I think \$33 000 was spent on the WA Symphony Orchestra and the remainder was spent on The Living End concert.

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: It was The Living End, member for Collie–Preston.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: It is good to get the answer from somewhere, because I was going to ask about the exact expenditure on each of those items.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: How much has been requested for this year’s event?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: I actually do not have that information before me. Essentially, the event organisers go through Eventscorp in applying for funding and then the Minister for Tourism brings that proposal to cabinet for approval.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the minister saying that his adviser does not have the information?

Mr B.J. GRYLLS: No; all I have are the actual figures for last year. I am glad we have ascertained that the most important thing happening in the goldfields is the racing round! “Bowls” would agree!

The appropriation was recommended.