

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC FUND

**789. Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to support Western Australia's homegrown music scene.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the Cook Labor government's contemporary music fund is creating new opportunities for local WA musicians?
- (2) Can the minister advise how the upcoming Coldplay concert will highlight Western Australia's renowned local talent to the rest of the world?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Yes, I can, and yes, I will. I thank the member for Thornlie for his continued support for contemporary music in Western Australia. As we know, Western Australia has a long history of tremendous talent in contemporary music and other music genres in this nation and has produced, and continues to produce, some outstanding performers and musicians. One of the signature policies of the McGowan government, now the Cook government, is the contemporary music fund—a fund of \$3 million over four years to continue to develop, assist and nurture new and emerging talent.

That fund has enabled numerous bands and individual musicians to have their music genres exposed to the world and, indeed, nationally. The fund continues to support the development of a strong and resilient contemporary music industry.

As the member is aware, Coldplay will be playing at Perth Stadium on 18 and 19 November. They are sellout concerts. It was a great achievement by the Premier, when he was Minister for Tourism, to secure that unique and exclusive event. Part of winning the Coldplay concerts, through negotiation with Coldplay members themselves, was consideration of allowing emerging local talent to be showcased at their concerts, as they have a tendency to do, and that has been embarked upon. Now we are pleased to announce that two Western Australian bands will be featured at the concerts as warm-up acts. They are King Ibis, an indie pop-rock band—for those who are into indie pop-rock bands, apparently the band is very good—and Adrian Dzvukey, an African-born R&B-pop-Afro beats artist, and his band. These two magnificent bands will get a great opportunity to showcase their particular talents.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Culture and the Arts, I realise that you are giving an answer to the member for Thornlie, but you have your back to me and you are not standing in your place.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am sorry, Speaker; I know that you are really into Afro beats music!

**The SPEAKER:** I just love to look at you, yes!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Those two bands will now have the opportunity to be showcased and they will also have their playlists exposed through Coldplay's extensive social media.

The contemporary music fund has been very successful. I also want to highlight that the contemporary music fund supported our homegrown band Voyager to go to the Eurovision Song Contest. I want to give a shout-out to frontman Danny Estrin, who is undergoing a health battle at the moment. We send our very best wishes to him during this time. That band and many others have experienced, and will continue to experience, support from the contemporary music fund.

Those who are lucky enough to have a Coldplay ticket for 18 or 19 November will be able to see these two bands, King Ibis and Adrian Dzvukey and his band, and their talents will be exposed to the world.

**Mr D.R. Michael:** What about you?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I dipped out. They will be exposed to the world. It is a tremendous opportunity for them and of course underpins why we are investing in contemporary music through the contemporary music fund.