

TOP GEAR — PERTH FILMING

512. Mr J.M. FRANCIS to the Minister for Tourism:

As the owner of the only 100 per cent Australian-made car in the members' car park—the V8 Kingswood ute—I was absolutely over the moon yesterday to read that the greatest show on television, *Top Gear*, was going to be filmed in Perth later this year. Can the minister enlighten the house on how he managed to pull off this coup, and provide more details about it?

Several members interjected.

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

Yes; I thank the member for the question.

Several members interjected.

Dr K.D. HAMES: I did recall that the member had an old bomb of some sort out there; he should get a nice new car like a Prado! They are good cars!

Mr Speaker, it is a coup for Western Australia to get *Top Gear* coming to Perth in December this year. In fact, since I have been talking to various members about this, there have been a large number of requests for tickets! I say to members that I am not planning to get lots of tickets because I was watching it on television at the weekend, and there is a close-up of the front row of the audience, and the last thing we need is a front row of members of Parliament at that show. Members will have to go and buy their tickets!

But it is a fantastic show, and it is extremely popular worldwide, and the two major presenters, Jeremy Clarkson and James May, will be coming to participate in that show. The figures we have show that, worldwide, 385 million people watch that show, and those 385 million people will be watching a show filmed here in Western Australia. Perth is the only city in Australia that will have this show; it is a great coup for Tourism Western Australia to have this show in Perth and to have access to that audience.

Top Gear is only one of a large number of performances and events that will come through Eventscorp over the next year, and I will be announcing more of those in the near future. Some of those have been enabled by the increase in funding we have had out of the general fund for tourism events, but a significant component has been enabled by the funds coming through royalties for regions; we have an additional \$60 million to spend on regional events over four years. I think members will see that Western Australia will become a much more exciting place than it has ever been, and I think that that excitement will attract many tourists to Western Australia.