

TOURISM — MARGARET RIVER GOURMET ESCAPE

2343. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the Margaret River Gourmet Escape and I ask:

- (a) how much is the State Government contributing financially to the event in 2017;
- (b) how much funding did the State Government provide for the event in 2015 and 2016;
- (c) is the Minister aware of approaches from other States and Territories to obtain the event;
- (d) if so, what measures are being taken to ensure the event remains in Western Australia; and
- (e) when will a decision about future funding for the event be made?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

- (a)–(b) The Western Australian government commits an annual amount to a major events program managed through Tourism Western Australia. The major events industry is highly competitive and Western Australia competes with interstate and international destinations to secure major events. Confidentiality of negotiations is critical in order to maintain the government's ability to negotiate the best outcome on future events. Accordingly, I will notify the Auditor General's office and both houses of Parliament that this part of this question will not be answered as per section 82 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.
- (c) No.
- (d)–(e) I announced the contract renewal for the 2018 Margaret River Gourmet Escape event on Thursday 23 November 2017. In addition, the McGowan Government is taking the opportunity to review the State's investment in food and wine event tourism, with a view to expanding the current festival to feature Margaret River and the Swan Valley. Consultation took place in both locations with the food and wine industry, tourism operators, local producers and the community to help determine the final specifications of the new events, followed by a Request for Proposal process, which has now closed. The outcome of this process will guide further decision making around the event.