

TOURISM — KUNUNURRA–MELBOURNE DIRECT FLIGHTS

691. Hon COLIN HOLT to the minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the announcement of direct flights between Kununurra and Melbourne starting from May 2020.

- (1) What role did the state government play in helping to establish the new direct flights?
- (2) Is the state government financially underwriting the direct flights in any way?
- (3) If yes to (2), what contribution is the state government making and over what time period?
- (4) For how long is the trial expected to run?

Hon ALANNAH MacTIERNAN replied:

I thank the member for that question. The following information has been provided to me by the Minister for Tourism. If the member has subsequent questions to me directly, I am happy to answer those as well.

- (1) Since 2015, Tourism Western Australia has worked with the East Kimberley Marketing Group to explore the potential for direct airline capacity between Melbourne and Kununurra, providing research and development support. Tourism Western Australia committed to undertake a marketing campaign to promote tourism attractions in and around Kununurra to the Victorian market in support of the flights.
- (2)–(3) I am advised by the Minister for Regional Development that the state government commitment is a one-off risk-sharing contribution to secure the trial service. The Minister for Regional Development approved \$100 000 of state funds, matched by at least \$300 000 from the business community and local government, towards the trial.
- (4) It is expected to run from May to August 2020.