

COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING 2011 — ARTS AND CULTURE FESTIVAL

**178. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Culture and the Arts:**

There has been a lot of recent media coverage about the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting that is to be held in Perth and the exciting arts events that the government has planned in the central business district.

**Ms M.M. Quirk** interjected.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** The member for Girrawheen is typical of people on her side of the house. She has no concept of and no potential to realise the significant opportunities that we have with CHOGM coming to Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Mindarie, I formally call you to order for the first time. Member for Scarborough, I do not normally provide advice in this place. I assume that most members in this place understand what question time is about. If you want to ask a question, just simply ask the question.

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** Would the minister please inform the house of this government's commitment to presenting a creative and vibrant face of Perth and of the Western Australian arts community to the international stage during CHOGM?

**Mr J.H.D. DAY replied:**

It is the case that a lot of effort and funding has been put into upgrading the Perth Cultural Centre and the surrounding precinct to make the area more attractive for people to visit, and to make it safer. Anybody who has been there in recent times—I hope the member for Perth has taken the opportunity to explore that section of his electorate—would have seen that an urban orchard is now located there, a native wetland has been established in the pond just outside the Art Gallery, and there is better lighting and better seating. An LED screen will be installed there between now and the end of the year; in fact, before CHOGM is held. There will be a children's playground. Additional night-time security will also be provided in the area. That is all part of the result of the \$11 million in total that is being spent. That will include upgrading some of the publicly-owned heritage buildings along the eastern side of William Street.

There will be a significant arts and cultural festival associated with CHOGM here at the end of October this year. In monetary terms, it will be about \$2.45 million in value, and it will provide a range of activities for visitors to Perth, but most importantly for residents of Perth and Western Australia. The particular emphasis will be on providing free and family-oriented activities, including the Indigenous Art Awards, which I referred to earlier today. At the Art Gallery of Western Australia there will be the *Revealed* exhibition, showcasing emerging Indigenous artists. Exhibitions will be held at the Western Australian Museum and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, and there will also be the very significant Canning Stock Route exhibition, which I think will be of a lot of interest to people in this state.

One would expect that the opposition and in particular the member for Perth would welcome these sorts of activities. But what do we see? In his trusty local publication, *The Perth Voice*, from which we get many inquiries, the member for Perth writes —

The much-touted CHOGM in Perth slated for October will prove as beneficial to the world's most isolated capital city as a well-attended conference of undertakers at the convention centre.

It is an outrageous slur; very creative. The member for Perth has a long way to go before he catches up with the creative writing ability of his colleague, the member for Armadale. The member went on to make some pejorative comments about loud shirts—something that most people would find a little ironic coming from the member for Perth.

I think most Western Australians understand that there will be a little disruption associated with CHOGM, but that very substantial benefits are to be gained from Perth and Western Australia hosting the CHOGM event. It would be interesting to know whether the Leader of the Opposition, and the opposition generally, support the sentiments which have been expressed by the member for Perth.

**Mr E.S. Ripper:** Are you asking me a question? The opposition supports CHOGM.

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** That is good to know. At least the Leader of the Opposition has a slightly more enlightened and worldly view than the member for Perth. The state member for Perth is clearly also very much out of step with the federal member for Perth, the Minister for Defence, Stephen Smith, and indeed the federal Labor government, which made the initial suggestion of holding CHOGM in Perth. The member for Perth is

completely isolated; he has put himself out on a limb and has made himself a joke in relation to any serious commentary.

**Mr C.J. Barnett:** He's struck off the garden party invitation list!

**Mr J.H.D. DAY:** The member for Perth himself foreshadowed that he might not be included on any invitation list. I will try very hard to ensure that, even if the member for Perth is not on the invitation list for the garden party, which the Queen will no doubt be attending, he will be invited to one or two arts events and will be able to see for himself some of the benefits of CHOGM being held in Perth in Western Australia and for the arts events associated with it.