

TOURISM — OVERSEAS INVESTMENT — PROPERTY TAX

**51. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:**

**Ms L. Mettam:** I have a supplementary question.

**The SPEAKER:** If you ask for a supplementary question, do not start talking before I call it.

**Ms L. METTAM:** Yes, Mr Speaker. Is it not true that taxing foreign homebuyers will detract from attracting foreign students and the associated tourism outcome?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

The truth is that the tax on homes for foreign investors is already in place in Victoria, where there has been a massive boom in international student numbers. Similarly, it is in place in New South Wales, and it too is exceeding our proportion of international student numbers as a result of its efforts to attract them. The reason international students have been shunning Western Australia is that the Liberal government failed to act to diversify the economy. It failed to invest in tourism and it failed to invest in marketing, and we are going to rectify that problem. We will rectify that problem.

**Mr S.K. L'Estrange:** That is rubbish.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is true. We have 11 per cent of the national population and we should be getting at least that in international students, but our per capita proportion of the international student numbers is seven per cent. The Liberal government failed to do anything other than sit back and cruise through the boom, and we are all suffering from it now.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** This is just another area we will be looking to rectify in order to clean up the mess that the Liberal government left us.