

MINISTER FOR TOURISM — SINGAPORE VISIT

Statement by Minister for Tourism

MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism) [2.03 pm]: I wish to provide a summary of my mission to Singapore from 2 to 4 September 2018.

During the short but packed visit, I met with Mr Chew Men Leong, chief marketing officer of Singapore Technologies Engineering and former Chief of Navy Singapore, to discuss government-led developments in the Western Australian defence industry sector and potential opportunities for engagement in relation to Australia's sovereign defence spend.

With our strategic adviser on defence matters, Major General Jeff Sengelman, DSC, AM, CSC, I hosted a forum with representatives from 20 Singaporean defence small to medium-sized enterprises and research institutions to discuss opportunities for collaboration with Western Australian defence contractors. At this meeting, I presented attendees with copies of the WA Defence Industry Capability Directory, which lists more than 100 Western Australian companies with advance capabilities in defence-related technology and manufacturing, and information on defence-related capabilities at Western Australian universities and vocational training providers. Major General Sengelman and I encouraged Singaporean players to review the directory for opportunities for collaboration or partnerships with Western Australian defence companies, universities and vocational training providers. We also extended an invitation to participate in the inaugural Indo-Pacific Defence Conference to be held in Perth on 30 October 2018.

The visit afforded an opportunity to meet with Dr Mohamad Maliki bin Osman, Senior Minister of State for Defence. In the course of a very positive discussion, we exchanged views on regional defence matters and opportunities for further collaboration between Singapore and Western Australia in defence, science and technology sectors. I also extended an invitation to Minister Maliki to attend the Indo-Pacific Defence Conference.

In my capacity as Minister for Tourism, I met with Mr Campbell Wilson, senior vice president of sales and marketing at Singapore Airlines, the state's largest provider of international aviation capacity and inbound visitation. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss Singapore's plans for Perth and WA, and the opportunity for further growth by Singapore Airlines and Scoot Airlines.

The major focus of the visit was a function to launch the 2018 Margaret River Gourmet Escape and to promote our recently announced bigger and better WA Gourmet Escape in the Singapore market. Journalists representing 42 different media publications attended this event at the National Gallery Singapore. Mr Christopher Gilbert, senior vice president and marketing director of IMG Australia and New Zealand, joined me in launching this year's Margaret River Gourmet Escape in the Singaporean market and in giving advance notice of next year's event.

I also had the opportunity to appear and talk about the gourmet escape and WA tourism on CNBC Asia to an audience of four million viewers. The visit to Singapore reaffirms the state government's commitment to expand efforts to promote the state in both the defence and tourism sectors.