

WESTERN AUSTRALIA GOURMET ESCAPE

**782. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant investment in events that drive economic growth across WA's tourism and hospitality sector and help create more local jobs.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government's decision to expand the Western Australia Gourmet Escape is drawing more visitors to more parts of our state, in particular the Swan Valley?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how more local Western Australian businesses are benefiting from this significant tourism event?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Set your watch, member for Bateman.

- (1)–(2) Yes, I thank the member for Swan Hills for the question. I can. I applaud her interest and support of the tourism sector in Western Australia, particularly in her electorate and the members for Midlands and West Swan's electorates. The Swan Valley is a magnificent asset for Western Australian tourism and we are about to boost it significantly with the expansion of the Gourmet Escape. What we learnt about the Gourmet Escape is that it was a wonderful event for raising brand awareness of Margaret River, but it did not bring many people at all to Western Australia.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, I am just sitting here watching you.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It cost a lot of money and built up the brand of Margaret River, which was a good thing, but it did not bring many people to Western Australia. Since we took office, tourism is all about bringing people from outside the state so that the economy grows. People will come from outside the state and stay in our hotels, visit our restaurants, bars and cafes, and get out to the regions and grow the economy and jobs. That is what we are doing with the Gourmet Escape. This year it is expanding. It will be the Western Australia Gourmet Escape. There will be a whole weekend in the Swan Valley, with a magnificent new event at Sandalford Wines called Gourmet Feast in the Valley, which is a weekend-long celebration of food and music for the family, with food trucks, DJs, musicians catering to all ages and musical tastes, a feast fire pit, a wine and sign event with Marco Pierre White, workshops, community talks, a little growers' garden and plenty of stuff for the kids.

**Mr R.S. Love:** All the fun of the fair!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It will have all the fun of the fair. During the Perth leg will be events at Wildflower and a number of other places across the city. That brings all of Perth into the Gourmet Escape culinary 10-day event. The entire city and surrounds will participate. There will be events with Ciccio Sultano at Santini Bar and Grill; Bistro Guillaume will have an event with Pierre Koffmann; and Wildflower will have an event. There will be a magnificent selection of other opportunities to encounter, but of course Margaret River will be everything it has been and more with even more wonderful new events in Margaret River.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, you do not want to miss any of this.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The member for Vasse will want to hear about the expansion of new events in Margaret River including a Caribbean–Australian six-course lunch, a Q and A session with Dublin-born headline chef Colin Fassnidge. There are excellent new events at Margaret River. Also in Perth will be the World Gourmet Symposium at Mandoon Estate.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** You will be going home.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** There will be something like 68 satellite and fringe events across the three locations over the course of the 10 days. This will be a magnificent contribution to the tourism sector and expansion of our calendar, and will give plenty of other small businesses right across the state the opportunity to market their wares to the world.

**The SPEAKER:** I owe the member for Churchlands an apology; it was his turn. That was my bad. The opposition will have two questions in a row.