

TOURISM — LUCKY BAY CAMPSITE FUNDING

249. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Tourism:

I will give the Minister for Tourism a chance to represent himself!

I refer to statistics released recently that identified that tourist numbers in most places in Western Australia are declining. Given that visitor numbers in the Esperance region actually increased during the surveyed time, will he commit to reinstating the funding his government cut from the Lucky Bay campsite upgrades?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Member, that is a great question for the Minister for Environment I suspect. I like the member for Roe and I like Lucky Bay. I love Esperance and I have been promoting Esperance publicly. As he will be fully aware, I have been advocating for Esperance to be elevated as a tourist attraction around the world and I have been actively engaged in promoting it. I have also indicated that I will meet—with the Minister for Transport when we can—with Rex airlines to discuss potential opportunities for growing visitation through greater tourism access by air travel. With respect to the upgrade to the camping sites, when the member was referring to a cut, was he talking about a program that was underway? Was it funded through tourism?

Mr P.J. Rundle: It was \$2.8 million from royalties for regions.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I might sit down and let the member ask a supplementary question and give me more specific details.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!