

TOURISM EVENTS — TOURISM WA

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

I have a supplementary question. Given its importance and in the best interests of attracting events to WA, will the minister listen to industry and not bury Tourism WA in a mega-department?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Mr Speaker, that is an interesting leap. The supplementary question is supposed to be connected. It is supposed to have some relevance.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member, I allowed the question. It went very close to the line, but it was not really a supplementary question. I will give the minister a chance to have a go at it.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** No; it was not a supplementary question, was it, member?

**Ms L. Mettam:** Yes—events and tourism.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Nevertheless, I think the member is trying to suggest that there is something bad about creating a large department focused largely on tourism as a component of growing jobs in Western Australia. I think the member is trying to suggest that dedicating \$425 million over five years to destination marketing and events funding is somehow bad. I think she is trying to suggest that the industry consortium—the first one ever, with the Premier and industry representatives, where they commended us for our election commitments and for our actions post-election and asked us to focus solely on getting more visitors to this state—was somehow wrong. I disagree.