

TOURISM — VISITOR NUMBERS

484. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister at least admit that according to Tourism Research Australia, total international visitor spend is down 10 per cent, or \$250 million less in spending, since he came to office in March 2017?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Again, I will confirm that since we came to office there has been an \$830 million increase in spend by visitors to Western Australia. We now know that from December 2017 to December 2018, more visitors came to this state from interstate and overseas combined than at any time in Western Australia's history. In 2018 we had the biggest visitor numbers in history and it was the biggest tourism year in history. We are fixing the mess we inherited. It was a disaster.

Several members interjected.

Mr P. PAPALIA: Leisure travel collapsed under the previous government. Everyone knows that during the boom, Western Australia had the most expensive hotels in the country and the most expensive coffee on the planet. We got that reputation and the Barnett government did nothing to repair it. It did nothing to prepare for the downturn.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the first time. It was quiet when you were not here!

Mr P. PAPALIA: All the Barnett government did was inflict four years of economic pain on the state and inflict pain on small businesses right across the state. There was no preparation, no advocacy and no effort to create new markets, which is what we have done.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I call you to order for the third time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: On 1 September, small businesses in Western Australia can look forward to the boom in Japanese tourism as a consequence of our efforts to get All Nippon Airways to fly from Tokyo to Perth seven days a week.

Mr A. Krsticevic interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Carine, I call you to order for the second time.

Mr P. PAPALIA: The previous government lost direct flights between Japan and Australia. We have renewed them with the magnificent Japanese airline, ANA, and it will commence services on 1 September, seven days a week. There will be a benefit to all small businesses as a consequence of that.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: That is the end of question time.

Member for Vasse, you are on three, so be very careful—you are still shouting out—unless you would like to go home early.