

SCULPTURE BY THE SEA — TOURIST NUMBERS

148. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Minister for Tourism:

I acknowledge in the gallery the students from Mount Lawley Senior High School in the member for Mount Lawley's electorate.

Minister, I recently enjoyed with my family a visit to Perth's third-best beach, Cottesloe, to see *Sculpture by the Sea*—sorry, Premier!

Mr M. McGowan: It is Rockingham, Scarborough and Cottesloe.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: It is Scarborough, Trigg and Cottesloe!

I noted that *Meeting 1* by Wang Shugang from China very deservedly won the \$2 500 *Sculpture by the Sea* People's Choice Prize, and that *Punctured Sky* by Elin&Keino from Finland was named winner of the NAB Kids' Choice Prize. However, given worries over the general downturn in tourism, can the minister please update the house on whether this downturn in tourism affected attendance at *Sculpture by the Sea* this year?

Dr K.D. HAMES replied:

I thank the member for the question. When she went through the order of best beaches, I was a little disappointed to hear that Mandurah's beaches were not mentioned, as they are fantastic. As the member for Mandurah and I both know, Mandurah is outside the metropolitan area, so its beaches cannot be included. The member for Mandurah should not make any comments or they will be recorded.

Mr M. McGowan: In the outback.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes, that is much better.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Dr K.D. HAMES: There are a few cobblers down in Mandurah as well; they got fished out, though not by me.

Sculpture by the Sea has been a fantastic event, year after year. It is one of the premier events that is funded by Tourism WA and Eventscorp. It has seen a continued increase in the number of people attending. We had 250 000 people visit the exhibition, which is 35 000 more than last year, which broke previous records. That is a fantastic number. The winner of the \$2 500 people's choice award was Wang Shugang from China. His sculpture was my favourite, which was a fantastic piece. He also won last year. The NAB kids' choice was a sculpture from Finland, which was again a fantastic result. It is really good to see what Eventscorp has been doing to get people out. Recently we had the Channel Seven Crab Fest in Mandurah, which is a fantastic event. We significantly increased funding this year to hold the EYRES Action Sports Games, which includes world-class waterskiing, cycling and skating. It is a fabulous event. About 120 000 people came to watch that event, which is very interesting because I know Victoria is trying to shop out the grand prix. It spends about \$50 million sponsoring the grand prix. The grand prix attracted about the same number of people—in fact, marginally less—to that event on a single day compared with what we had in Mandurah over the weekend. It was a fantastic event. Lots of people were there. My son, who never goes to anything, went down there without my knowledge to see it because of those events that were on.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Freddy Krueger was there.

Dr K.D. HAMES: Yes. Some world champions participated in that event and put on a fantastic performance. I want to congratulate Eventscorp for the types of events that it is supporting and the huge improvement it is making in the attraction of Perth as a city, not just for our own people but for others to come and watch what we put on.