

MAJOR EVENTS — FUNDING

472. Mr P. ABETZ to the Minister for Tourism:

I note the state government continued its support for events in the recent budget. Can the minister please inform the house about some upcoming major events?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY replied:

I thank the member for Southern River for this question. It is a good question to ask today because tonight the Premier will open the Perth Fashion Festival, which will run from 11 to 16 September. The fashion festival is now in its fifteenth year of operation. The few male members in the chamber who are smirking may find that their credit cards will get a work-out as a result of Perth Fashion Festival!

Ms M.M. Quirk: That is what happened to Caligula.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, are you referring to Roman history? Thank you for that. I call you to order for the first time.

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: Getting back to the Perth Fashion Festival, it is a great opportunity for local designers and the local fashion trade to showcase their wares. Indeed, since its inception 15 years ago, more than 240 000 people have visited Perth Fashion Festival and attended both the paid and free-ticketed events over the week it runs. The Perth International golf tournament will be held in the member for Carine's electorate. Golfers will be teeing off at Lake Karrinyup Country Club from 17 to 20 October. This is Australia's richest annual golf tournament and this year it has a good line-up of players. The list of attendees includes the 2013 Irish Open winner and former world number three, Paul Casey; Australia's leading amateur, Brady Watt; and three-time European tour winner, Richard Green. Last year's inaugural tournament was a tremendous success, attracting more than 31 000 spectators with more than 1 400 hours of television coverage that reached into 424 million homes in 67 countries. It is indeed a very good event for Western Australia. In November, the Deputy Premier's baby—the Margaret River Gourmet Escape—will be held in the south west. We are very pleased to be hosting Heston Blumenthal for that event. Demand for tickets has been strong and we have been looking at ways to extend this event. The demand for and popularity of the event have far exceeded our expectations. Once again, we are putting our Margaret River region on the world map for its gourmet pleasures. Well done to the Deputy Premier for his persistence in pushing for that event.

The Hyundai Hopman Cup will run from 28 December 2013 to 4 January 2014. Sam Stosur and Bernard Tomic will be here as the Australian team. I recently announced that the Polish team will be represented by Agnieszka Radwanska and Jerzy Janowicz.

Mr T.R. Buswell: Can you spell that?

Mrs L.M. HARVEY: That is a very good question, but I will not spell those surnames; the Treasurer can look them up.

We are looking at a complete line-up of eight teams, which will be announced next month. We are very pleased to be promoting these events on the Western Australian tourism calendar. Many members here will attend the Qantas Wallabies versus Argentina rugby union game at Patersons Stadium. Once again, it will be a fantastic event, funded by the state government and will ensure we increase our visitation numbers to Western Australia and, indeed, provide world-class opportunities for Western Australians to enjoy tourism events in our own state.