

SHIPWRECK HUNTERS AUSTRALIA — FUNDING

961. Hon Dr BRIAN WALKER to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Culture and the Arts:

I refer the minister to the recently aired Disney+ television series *Shipwreck Hunters Australia* released late last month that follows the hunt for a variety of wrecks off the coast of Western Australia, and note that its production was supported by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development through the royalties for regions program.

- (1) What was the government's total financial contribution to *Shipwreck Hunters Australia*?
- (2) Has any additional money been committed to promote the series, either locally or overseas; and, if so, with what level of success to date?
- (3) If a second season is commissioned, will the government consider continued support on the grounds that the series showcases the WA coastline, its history and marine life to wonderful effect and can only serve as a drawcard for domestic and international tourists alike?

Hon SAMANTHA ROWE replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. The following answer is provided on behalf of the Minister for Culture and the Arts.

- (1) The project received \$830 400 in funding from Screenwest comprising a documentary development investment of \$30 400, \$400 000 for documentary production and \$400 000 from the WA regional screen fund. The project also received in-kind contribution at the fixed value of \$253 819 from the Western Australian Museum. This comprised participation in seven expeditions by two senior WA Museum maritime archaeologists from 3 May 2021 to 16 February 2022. These expeditions travelled across the state from Broome to Rottnest Island and numerous locations in between. The in-kind contribution for this amounted to \$146 886. For WA Museum staff time, script preparation, review and editing, partnership and contract management, financial administration and episode reviews, the in-kind contribution amounted to \$106 229.
- (2) Screenwest contributed \$2 500 towards the *Shipwreck Hunters Australia* launch event in Fremantle.
- (3) Further applications for funding support will be assessed against the criteria of the relevant funding program, including tourism outcomes for the state, and would be subject to the availability of funding.