

TOURISM — HORIZONTAL FALLS

182. Hon NEIL THOMSON to the minister representing the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's decision to ban tour operators from traversing the Kimberley's world-renowned Horizontal Falls.

- (1) Why did the Cook Labor government close an experience that brings millions into the economy and puts Western Australia on the world tourism map?
- (2) Will the Cook Labor government's closure have a negative financial impact on tour operators?
- (3) Will the Cook Labor government's closure have a negative economic impact on the economy in Broome and the Kimberley?

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON replied:

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

- (1)–(3) The state government is working to transition the tourism experience at Horizontal Falls. The fact is that many operators have already begun to transition their product away from traversing the falls following extensive consultation over the last 12 months. Tourism will remain a key value of the marine park, with access to the surrounding waters and land being retained for visitors and licensed operators.