

HEMP — ARTWORKS

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

I refer the minister to the Art Gallery of Western Australia catalogue that lists an impressive number of paintings by Thomas Gainsborough who, alongside other famous painters of his day, was known to use hemp canvases as the basis for many of his creations.

- (1) Were any of the five Gainsboroughs currently in the collection painted on hemp canvases?
- (2) If yes to (1), is any recognition made of this in the presentation of the works to the public; and, if not, will the minister lobby for such recognition going forward?
- (3) If no to (1), are any other artists on display at the art gallery known to have painted on hemp canvases; is that fact acknowledged in any way; and, if not, why not, given the educational nature of the state collection?

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. This answer is current as of Thursday, 23 February.

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) A review of the collection database has not identified any works in the state art collection that have hemp as a material recorded.