

Question on Notice
No. 1325
Asked on 31 October 2006

QUESTION:

MRS MENKENS asked the Minister for Environment Multiculturalism (Ms Nelson-Carr)—

With reference to the recently held *Earth Dialogues Brisbane 2006: A World Forum for Resource Management and Sustainable Development*, which featured the former President of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev, Noble Peace Laureates and experts on sustainability and as this event was funded and promoted as a signature event of the 2006 Brisbane Festival—

Why was this event funded through the Arts portfolio when clearly the event was one which would mainly concern the Environmental Protection Agency?

ANSWER:

The Brisbane Festival is a major international multi-arts festival offering a program of theatre, dance, music, opera, and multimedia and community events for residents of Brisbane and visitors. The Festival is designed to encourage engagement and participation from the community.

The Earth Dialogues Brisbane Forum was developed by Lyndon Terracini, Artistic Director and CEO of the Brisbane Festival. The intent was to have Queensland host an event dealing with intellectual discussion and debate on issues of contemporary importance. By holding the event as part of the Brisbane Festival it would provide the festival with a point of difference from the traditional arts and cultural festival. It would also cater for an expanded audience during a time of showcasing Queensland's arts and cultural infrastructure and talent.

The subject matter at the forum dealt with issues cutting across a number of portfolios, for example, energy, water, education, urban design and planning, natural resource management and social issues such as conflict resolution, governance and peace. A whole-of-Government response to working with the Brisbane Festival was taken to provide a quality and relevant program for the Queensland community. An interdepartmental working group was convened by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet comprising representatives from relevant government departments, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA was involved in the delivery of the event, providing people and resources.

The source of funding for the Earth Dialogues event was the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, not Arts Queensland. As Arts Queensland administers the funding for the Brisbane Festival, the State's contribution from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was transferred to Arts Queensland to be administered through a funding arrangement specific to the delivery of the Earth Dialogues Forum as part of the 2006 Brisbane Festival.