

PERTH STADIUM — DROP-IN WICKET

96. Mr T.K. WALDRON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

Before I ask my question, I would like to acknowledge the member for Midland, because she has a birthday only once every four years, and I understand that is next Monday, 29 February. So, happy birthday, and I wish I was still a teenager!

Minister, I understand that the Perth Stadium project team is currently testing a drop-in wicket for Perth Stadium, and that is taking place at Gloucester Park. Could the minister please expand on this for the house?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for Wagin for the question. I knew he would be very interested in the testing we are doing down at Gloucester Park. On Tuesday morning I went to Gloucester Park with Christina Matthews and members of the project team for the new stadium.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I also met with some of the Western Warriors who are currently putting the drop-in wicket through its paces.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I just hear a bit of a constant drip over there, but that is all right; I will carry on. Everyone else is interested in the drop-in wicket.

We started last year —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: We started last year. The wicket has been constructed with the same soil profile and turf that are used at the WACA ground. I know that everyone will be watching very keenly to see that we get this surface right at the new stadium, particularly cricket lovers, given the importance that the wicket at the WACA has in international cricket.

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the first time. We are just wasting time for nothing.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am not reading anything, member.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen, I call you to order for the second time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: To make sure that we get the wicket correct, because we are looking to attract major matches to the new stadium —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan, I call you to order for the second time; member for Pilbara for the first time; and member for Kwinana, for the first time. Minister, through the Chair.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: They are putting the wicket through test match conditions, so they will be looking at the —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I do not even know why the member thinks it is funny.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Well, go away!

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Well, go away!

The SPEAKER: Minister! Member for Girrawheen, this is deteriorating very quickly for no good reason.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Thank you Mr Speaker.

An opposition member: What's the soil profile?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is the same as that at the WACA. They are using the same soil profile and turf as that at the WACA. I have already said that. Were opposition members not listening?

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: They are doing five days of testing the wicket. They will then do an assessment to make sure that it stands up. They will give it a rest. They will then put another team out there and replicate one-day matches. Westadium will have responsibility for the construction and management —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, I call you to order for the second time. Minister, quickly.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Westadium will have responsibility for the construction and management of four drop-in wickets at the new stadium, and it is incredibly important that we get this —

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Armadale, I cannot believe that this is happening. I call you to order for the first time.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Mr Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is the opposition's time that is being wasted. Everyone on this side is very happy to listen to me talk about the drop-in wicket. One-day match conditions will be replicated after there has been a resting period. It is a great collaboration between the WACA, the stadium team, Cricket Australia and Westadium to make sure we get this wicket right. I am sure that many cricket fans will be watching closely as we do this.

Point of Order

Mr J.H.D. DAY: For three or four minutes now, most of the time the minister has been trying to answer, there has been this cacophony from the other side. I am finding it difficult to hear and I think members at least on this side would like to hear the minister's answer.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. Quickly, minister.

Ms M.J. Davies: I am finished.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.