

“STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR THE SPORT AND RECREATION INDUSTRY 2016–2020”

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.08 am]: I rise to inform the house that I recently accepted the SD6 document, “Strategic Directions for the Sport and Recreation Industry 2016–2020”, from the sport and recreation industry on behalf of the government. For the last 20 years, the sport and recreation industry has actively planned towards building active, healthy and engaged communities. One of the key tools used is the Western Australian sport and recreation industry strategic directions documents. These three to five-year plans provide industry with a framework in which to operate and develop, guide state government decision-making and set out key challenges for the sector.

After extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, an independent reference group chaired by Professor Helen Parker developed the sixth iteration of the series. SD6 is a forward-looking document that identifies the key strategic issues likely to face the sport and recreation industry between 2016 and 2020. The SD series has been a catalyst for action in the sport and recreation industry. In the last five years a number of significant issues identified in SD5 have been progressed, including access to junior sport and recreation, which has been broadened by the KidSport initiative; the benefits of unstructured outdoor play for all children has been communicated to parents and communities through Nature Play WA; the interests of the sport and recreation industry have been considered up-front in the development of water and planning; and sport and recreation clubs have taken advantage of financial and educational support to upgrade information technology and communication strategies through ClubTalk. We are privileged to have one of the best sport and recreation systems in the world. The system is built on volunteer and community delivery and hence contributes greatly to the resilience and social fabric of our state. But we have to be vigilant to maintain it, which is why the state government has continued to commit funds, including additional recurrent spending to support initiatives such as KidSport, Nature Play and the community sport and recreation facilities fund. The importance and value of forward planning should never be underestimated and a forward-looking agenda is essential for the sport and recreation industry to continue to thrive.

I was pleased to learn that the Department of Culture and the Arts is using the SD series structure as an inspiration to work with its sector to generate forward-planning documents with industry. This has been informed directly by the Department of Sport and Recreation and will similarly present cross-portfolio implications for government to consider. The SD6 document is already publically available. I encourage members to understand the sport and recreation challenges and opportunities in their local community. I thank everyone involved for their hard work in producing SD6 and commend the document for all future action in the sport and recreation industry space.