

PERTH STADIUM — FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

518. Mr P.B. WATSON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the ongoing negotiations regarding the use of the new Perth Stadium at which the Australian Football League would be the main sporting beneficiary.

- (1) Why did the minister not secure a financial contribution from the AFL for the stadium before commencing work on it?
- (2) Why did the minister not secure a financial contribution from the commonwealth before the commencement of work?
- (3) Will the minister now get a contribution from the commonwealth or the AFL towards the new stadium?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

- (1)–(3) I thank the member for the question. I am always happy to talk about the stadium. I was out there a few weeks ago; they are making great progress. It will be a fantastic project for the state, not only as a sporting facility. I acknowledge its main user will be the AFL and other sporting groups, but there will also be fantastic opportunities for entertainment. That whole precinct will offer some absolutely fantastic opportunities for the state.

Mr F.M. Logan interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right; jobs will be created. Opposition members are talking about construction and jobs—that side of the house is always worried about that. As to financial contributions from the AFL and the commonwealth, I have read the transcripts from estimates. I know that comment was made about whether the government had made approaches to both the commonwealth and the AFL. It certainly has. At this stage there has been no confirmation that they will contribute. It would be fantastic if they did. Those conversations are ongoing. We are determined to deliver this stadium, and we can do it within state government finances.