

SOCCEROOS — 2018 FIFA WORLD CUP

12. Mr C.D. HATTON to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

The recent success of the Socceroos has excited soccer fans throughout Australia and now the Socceroos are coming to Perth for the first time since 2005. Can the minister please update the house on the exciting development for soccer fans in Western Australia?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

Yesterday we announced that Australia's national football team, the Socceroos, will kick off their 2018 FIFA World Cup campaign right here in Perth. It was a very exciting day; the Premier and I were there. Kudos to the Minister for Tourism and Tourism WA for working very closely to secure that deal.

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is a fantastic outcome for sport in Western Australia. It is the first match for the Socceroos on their road trip to Russia, which is hosting the 2018 World Cup. The actual date of the match and all the fixture details are yet to come, so yesterday's announcement was really just to say that this is a fantastic outcome, well done and congratulations.

One of the reasons we were able to achieve this outcome is that we have such fantastic facilities here in Western Australia. This government put \$95.14 million —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for West Swan! Member for Cannington!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The game is going to be played at nib Stadium—a stadium into which this state government put \$94 million for its redevelopment. It was completed in October 2013, and 20 500 fans will be able to enjoy the experience, and it will be a spectacular experience for those fans because of that redevelopment. This is very exciting for WA and it is a meaningful match; it will be a qualifier. The Socceroos have not played in Perth since 2005, and that was only a friendly match, so I am expecting a great experience for the fans and a great uplift for our grassroots sporting organisations. This is a great outcome. Well done to the Minister for Tourism and the state government for supporting it.