

CLAREMONT FOOTBALL CLUB UPGRADE — GOVERNMENT FUNDING

769. Mr A.P. O’GORMAN to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier’s \$16.5 million sweetheart deal with his old football club, Claremont, a payment some 300 per cent higher than initially discussed.

- (1) When will West Perth Football Club get new training facilities and club rooms in Joondalup?
- (2) Can the Premier confirm that the government can sell lot 9000 McLarty Avenue to fund part of this redevelopment?
- (3) Can he confirm that West Perth Football Club will receive free rent at its oval just as was bestowed on Claremont Football Club recently; and, if not, why not?

Mr C.J. BARNETT replied:

(1)–(3) I am not aware of any approach by the West Perth Football Club to either me, the Minister for Lands or the Minister for Sport and Recreation.

Mr A.P. O’Gorman: He’s aware of it.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The government would look objectively at any proposal for the redevelopment of West Australian Football League grounds. The Claremont redevelopment is something that has been, I guess, developed over the past four or five years at least. Why did the Claremont Football Club receive \$16 million?

Mr E.S. Ripper: When \$4 million was originally proposed.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: It was not a deal, was it? Like so many of the Labor government’s things, it never got the deal done.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Thank you, members!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: The Claremont Football Club had a lease over the land with the Claremont council, which had many years to go. For any redevelopment of that land, which is very much to the benefit of the state and to the local government, the Claremont Football Club had to forgo its lease. As part of the compensation, a deal was struck in which it would forgo its lease —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Stick with me.

It would forgo its lease and receive \$16 million, which would allow it to build smaller and more modern clubrooms and change rooms. Some 500 dwelling units will be built. A development to be handled by LandCorp, which provides for an inner city development right on the rail station, is very, very good.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Inner city?

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Claremont is inner city. It will be a good development. As I understand it, certainly the Swan Districts —

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Please, develop some courtesy. Just try to be courteous.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Please answer the question then, Premier.

The SPEAKER: Member for Girrawheen!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Not with the member for Girrawheen’s discourtesy.

Mr J.N. Hyde: She said “please”. What more to you want? You seem to really want to subjugate people. That is your ego trip in this place.

The SPEAKER: Member for Perth, I formally call you to order for the second time today.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: My understanding is that Swan Districts Football Club has a concept for redeveloping Bassendean Oval

Mr M.P. Whitely interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Bassendean!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: East Fremantle Football Club has a similar proposal.

Mr E.S. Ripper: There is some land at Lathlain Park!

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Gee! How many teams are in the WAFL? Nine! Shall we go through them one by one? Is that too complex for members opposite?

Several members interjected.

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will tell members what we will do. I, along with the Minister for Lands and the Minister for Sport and Recreation, will undertake to meet any WAFL club on any proposal that we develop —

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr A.P. O'GORMAN: Mr Speaker, I asked a specific question about West Perth Football Club. The Premier has now gone to every club in the league. Can the Premier give me a direct answer on West Perth, please?

The SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr C.J. BARNETT: I will tell the member what I will do. If West Perth Football Club—it may have approached other ministers; I am not sure about that —

Mr P.C. Tinley interjected

Mr C.J. BARNETT: Fine. Good on them. It is a good club, West Perth Football Club. If West Perth Football Club wishes to also approach me, I will be happy to meet with West Perth Football Club, along with the ministers concerned, and try to come up with some arrangement that is good for it, if it brings on some development. That is just as I and the Minister for Sport and Recreation met with the Mayor of the Town of Vincent and negotiated the redevelopment of the rectangular stadium—something that members opposite could not do! What will happen out of that? We will see Beatty Park developed as a premium aquatic centre—something members opposite could not do! Why do members opposite keep raising issues that they failed on? If the member wants to pass the message back to West Perth Football Club, we are happy to look at any proposal. Indeed, we would look at any proposal for rationalising and improving sporting facilities in this state, particularly if it results in more housing options for people.