

KINGSWAY REGIONAL SPORTING COMPLEX — TOILET FACILITIES

Grievance

MS M.M. QUIRK (Girrawheen) [9.08 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation and concerns the highly inadequate toilet facilities for the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association players at Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex in my electorate. I understand that the minister briefly visited the complex and was made aware of the issue and spoke to Wanneroo Districts Netball Association officials. I seek an acknowledgement that the merits of the case for upgraded toilets warrant a contribution from either consolidated revenue or the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. I seek confirmation that the club's co-location with a number of other sporting clubs on the site will not prejudice consideration of the merits of its own case under the CSRFF application process. The latter course is by no means ideal, as applications for other sporting clubs are already pending for the next round of funding. The solution for this club is a considerable time off, so this needs sorting urgently.

The minister will recall from her visit that the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex and, in particular, the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association hosts 5 500 players in its competition at that site. The 62 teams in the competition come from as far north as Muchea. There are two netball court locations. There are five ladies' toilets, one men's toilet and one disabled toilet to service 27 courts. Some distance away there are an additional eight ladies' toilets, one men's toilet and one disabled toilet to service a further 30 courts. For 57 courts, with 14 players on each, plus reserves, umpires and spectators, it is little wonder that there is an inevitable queue and persistent unmet demand for the scarce toilet facilities.

As the minister is aware, with over 130 000 players, netball has one of the highest participation rates of any sport in Western Australia. Netball is principally played by girls and is very much a grassroots game, without the level of financial backing that male elite athletes receive. The facilities at Kingsway stand in stark contrast with those for mere spectators at the new Perth Stadium, where it is planned to have one toilet for every 35 women and one urinal for every 70 men. Not only will the stadium be flush with toilets, but also provision has been made for radio commentary in each. I do not mean to knock the new stadium, which is state-of-the-art. I use that as an example only because that is what is seen as the optimal ratio of toilets to spectators. It graphically illustrates how inadequate the provision of toilets is for Kingsway netballers. I have some photos to demonstrate how inadequate provision is at Kingsway.

I think it is universally accepted that the toilets are in pressing need of upgrading. The issue is that the Kingsway complex is seen essentially as a regional facility that caters to many other sports in the precinct. I am concerned that this means that the likelihood of getting funding under the CSRFF is reduced because funding received by other Kingsway clubs in the past might disqualify the WDNA from also being a recipient, as it will be seen as another grant given to the same location and therefore its applications would not be accorded a high priority. These concerns are also based on the fact that demand for the CSRFF, as members will be aware, far outstrips supply and because of the injection into the fund from royalties for regions, this naturally means that regional applications are proportionately more likely to receive a successful outcome.

The City of Wanneroo received funding of \$195 000 towards an irrigation system upgrade in 2009–10 from the CSRFF and another \$400 000 for baseball clubrooms in 2015–16. It has a pending application for \$217 000 for a Little Athletics storage facility at Kingsway Reserve. Those elements of the project are considered eligible for CSRFF funding. However, the remaining \$22.5 million that the city intends to spend on the Kingsway regional facilities are not considered to be a community sports provision and no state funding programs support regional level facilities. Federal funding had been provided to the value of \$1.4 million for a stage 1 netball court upgrade in 2009–10 through the regional and local community infrastructure program. Given this, I ask for favourable consideration of an allocation of funds, maybe from consolidated revenue; this is by no means unheard of. Large projects such as the upgrade to the Joondalup HBF Arena, which the Premier said was justified because Perth's northern suburbs were one of Australia's most rapidly expanding population corridors and the community deserved a sporting hub it could be proud of, have received such funding. Another \$26 million was spent on the Matthews Netball Centre in Wembley. Although it is accepted that this is the state headquarters for netball, it illustrates the point that moneys are from time to time allocated from consolidated revenue.

An analogous situation is that of the Northern Redbacks women's soccer club, which in 2013 was promised money for its change rooms and toilets in Balga and earlier this year received \$500 000 under the CSRFF. If the minister is dinkum about supporting grassroots sport and not just funnelling all available moneys into elite sports, if she understands that girls' sports need to be encouraged just as much as, if not more than, boys' sports and if she appreciates that the lack of satisfactory facilities acts as a constraint to girls' netball in the northern suburbs, I ask her to consider this grievance. My colleague Anne Aly, the member for Cowan, and her predecessor and Labor candidate for Wanneroo, Sabine Winton, have been lobbied heavily on this issue. Those

netballers should be jumping for possession, not queuing for a loo. Those players should be crossing the court, not crossing their legs.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, before I call you, can I just note that the Minister for Innovation tabled a response to the committee report on innovation. I want to note that that document is tabled.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [9.16 am]: I thank the member for Girrawheen for raising this issue. The member is correct; I met with the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association's director of facilities last year. I also met and discussed netball facilities with the City of Wanneroo during a community cabinet. It was not one of the specific issues that we talked about during that meeting, but I was made aware of the situation. For anyone who has seen them, it is clear that the toilet facilities are not up to the demand of a very thriving club and association. The member gave us a quick snapshot of the Wanneroo Districts Netball Association. It has a fantastic junior program. The membership numbers for junior and senior are over 4 000, and over 7 000 volunteers are involved. It has 61 clubs, 696 teams and a winter and spring competition. It is a sensational effort and it is certainly worthy of future funding rounds.

The member will be very aware that when applications to the community sporting and recreation facilities fund are made, it is regularly oversubscribed. It is a very competitive funding round and very welcomed by local governments and sporting associations right across this state. There has typically been about a 50–50 split between regional and metro areas—that is without royalties for regions. It has always fallen that way. That system has been in place since before this government was involved. I would have been very happy to have had this conversation with the member, given that I deal with a number of members of Parliament about local sporting clubs, so I was a little bit perplexed when it was raised through a grievance. However, I am very happy to answer the member's questions about whether a future application would be eligible. Of course, if the association and the city support an application and put it forward for the CSRFF, it would be assessed in amongst the others. The association would have a very good case because the facilities at the moment are clearly not catering for the number of women who are out on the courts.

The member would be aware that back in 2006 the City of Wanneroo created a master plan for the redevelopment of the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex. That included all the playing surface areas and lighting, which I understand is being funded from the commonwealth. The city is the responsible authority for making sure that the planning is completed and then going through the process, as the member would know, of making applications to the relevant authorities. That plan notes that better disabled toilet facilities and better facilities closer to where the players are actually on the courts are needed. As the member said, there are currently only two toilet blocks that are adjacent to the courts. This clearly is not acceptable. My understanding is that the city has been working quite hard to rectify this in the short term while it works through a longer term redevelopment.

The City of Wanneroo does not have any applications in to the current round of the CSRFF. I have a small grant round that is about to be completed and large grant rounds are being assessed at the moment.

There is a development bonus for projects within the community sporting and recreation facilities fund that demonstrate participation initiatives, such as projects that benefit women's participation. We are very much on board with ensuring that our facilities are up to scratch, for women in particular. If we look around the state at various facilities built some years ago, we see that they typically have two change rooms and toilets that do not accommodate the very rapidly growing women's sporting sector. These are things that the department, the Minister for Women's Interests and I, through our Get Onboard and Lead program, have been addressing more specifically in recent times.

My understanding is that the department has recently discussed the netball facilities with the City of Wanneroo. The city has advised the department that it is looking to increase the number of toilets near the eastern courts and that they will likely be installed within the next four weeks, but they will just be demountables plumbed in while the longer term planning is finished. From that perspective, I would expect that if the city puts in a further application, that is something the city would not be precluded from. The member is right; a significant amount of funding has been going to the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex. Some of that is commonwealth funding, but the City of Wanneroo has been very successful. My notes tell me that since 2008, the city has received more than \$5.1 million for 18 projects out of 26 applications. The City of Wanneroo is very good at doing this, it is a big local government and we work very closely with it to ensure that we are meeting its needs.

There are several proposed projects at the netball facility that look at, as the member said, the upgrade of the ablution blocks and a second storey addition. Those designs have not yet been completed. My understanding is that that is yet to be done. Floodlighting will also be installed, and that is being funded through the commonwealth. The two grants that I have in front of me are not netball related.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! There are too many conversations in the house.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I take the member's point about the stadium. That is the standard that we want to see across the board, and that is why the department works really closely with local government. We do infrastructure

planning with everyone to ensure that they aware that they need to accommodate the needs of women in their sporting clubs, more than they ever have before. That is certainly one of my priorities that the department is very clear about. Regarding whether the funding can come from the consolidated fund or the CSRFF, I would have thought that it is a perfect fit for the CSRFF; the City of Wanneroo just needs to put in the application.

I am always happy to discuss with any member of Parliament priorities for their community. I do that on a regular basis and my door is open for the member for Girrawheen or any of her sporting associations to discuss future projects; that is exactly what we are here to do.