

PERTH STADIUM — MEMBERSHIP COSTS

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

I refer to the recent surveys done by the Fremantle Dockers and the West Coast Eagles that clearly indicate that members and supporters will be hit by increases in membership fees of up to 50 per cent at the new stadium.

- (1) Will these membership price increases be due to the increased fees charged to the football clubs at the new stadium?
- (2) When the government says that the new stadium will be “fans first”, does that mean that fans will be the first ones hit hard in the hip pocket?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Member for Wanneroo, I call you to order for the first time. Carry on, member for Albany.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Shall I start again, Mr Speaker?

The SPEAKER: I think carry on. I think it is a long question.

Mr P.B. WATSON: I continue —

- (3) What is the maximum increase in ordinary members’ ticket prices the minister would be prepared to allow?

Ms M.J. DAVIES replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(3) The member is referring to surveys that have been conducted by both the Fremantle Football Club and the West Coast Eagles. Those clubs are getting ready to transition into a new 60 000-seat stadium that will provide a fantastic opportunity for them as football clubs to attract new members and new corporate support, and they are working through that process. They are perfectly entitled to do that. They are surveying their members to find out what they would be willing and prepared to pay. That is not something that the state government has any influence over. They are doing their due diligence as they prepare to transition into this new stadium. We are absolutely committed, member, to a fans-first experience, and there has been a commitment by this government from day dot to make sure that there will be reasonably priced tickets for general admission and for mums and dads and their families to be able to walk up and purchase tickets on the day. What that will be when the stadium is actually opened —

Mr P.B. Watson: Minister, what is a “reasonable price”?

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Can I finish answering the question?

The SPEAKER: Carry on, minister.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: What that will be when the stadium opens will be up to and subject to the negotiations that have to be completed by the stadium operator with the user groups. I would anticipate that, yes, there may be an increase in prices but, member, they are getting an increase in experience and a far better outcome from attending a game or a function —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am talking to you now, member for Albany! I have been pretty lenient on you. Let the minister finish the answer.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: Really and truly, members opposite are the only people in the state who are not excited about this stadium. Everywhere I go in this state, they cannot wait. When the stadium operator has finalised the negotiations, the operator —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Premier, member for Collie–Preston, member for Albany: I do not want to hear you.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Just now, somebody is going to be asked to have a rest. Do not be upset.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am absolutely positive that the member opposite will be there on the day the stadium opens, with all his constituents who are exceptionally excited about this new stadium. We have stated categorically that this new stadium will be a fans-first experience. We have given the two AFL clubs that will be the users at the stadium the most amazing opportunity to grow their memberships and to continue to contribute to grassroots football right throughout the state. I am very confident that once that operator agreement is signed

and the operator can negotiate with the users, there will be clarity for the clubs and their members—of which I am one—about what the membership prices will be, but I expect and continue to expect that that stadium will offer an experience for everyone—mums, dads and kids—and we have made that very clear from day one.